

**Question on notice no. 6**

**Portfolio question number: 6**

**2019-20 Additional estimates**

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio**

**Senator the Hon. Penny Wong:** asked the Department of Defence on 4 March 2020

—

Senator WONG: It was Scotty from marketing; that's what it is. I want to move on. I will go to a story that ran this morning, I think, in relation to a military database hack.

Senator Reynolds: Are you talking about Defence Force Recruiting, Senator Wong?

Senator WONG: Yes.

Senator WONG: DFRN. A company was also named-Manpower Australia. I have some questions about this. [...]

I assume you've seen this story. When did Defence first become aware of the possibility that the database had been hacked?

Ms Greig: In my responsibilities, I have Defence Force Recruiting. General Fox and I have responsibilities for that area. That is just so you know where my perspective is coming from. We were given an indication that there was potentially a security issue with an element of our Defence Force Recruiting network. The first indication we were given there was potentially an issue was on 24 January. From that time, we-

Senator WONG: This year?

Ms Greig: Yes.

Senator WONG: Was there no indication prior to that?

Ms Greig: It was 24 January.

Senator WONG: Was there no indication of concern last year?

Ms Greig: So 24 January was when-

Ms Skinner: That's right. There was no indication there was any specific issue with the Defence Force Recruiting network, as I understand it, until 24 January.

Senator WONG: Was the contractor aware of any issue prior to that date?

Ms Skinner: I'm not aware that they were aware. I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer —**

Answer attached

# **Senate Standing Committee Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

Additional Estimates – 4 March 2020

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Defence

**Topic:** SSCFADT - AE - 4 March 2020 – Q6 - DFRN Database - Wong

**Question reference number:** 6

**Senator:** Penny Wong

**Type of question:** Spoken

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 April 2020

### **Question:**

Senator WONG: It was Scotty from marketing; that's what it is. I want to move on. I will go to a story that ran this morning, I think, in relation to a military database hack.

Senator Reynolds: Are you talking about Defence Force Recruiting, Senator Wong?

Senator WONG: Yes.

Senator WONG: DFRN. A company was also named—Manpower Australia. I have some questions about this.

[...]

I assume you've seen this story. When did Defence first become aware of the possibility that the database had been hacked?

Ms Greig: In my responsibilities, I have Defence Force Recruiting. General Fox and I have responsibilities for that area. That is just so you know where my perspective is coming from. We were given an indication that there was potentially a security issue with an element of our Defence Force Recruiting network. The first indication we were given there was potentially an issue was on 24 January. From that time, we—

Senator WONG: This year?

Ms Greig: Yes.

Senator WONG: Was there no indication prior to that?

Ms Greig: It was 24 January.

Senator WONG: Was there no indication of concern last year?

Ms Greig: So 24 January was when—

Ms Skinner: That's right. There was no indication there was any specific issue with the Defence Force Recruiting network, as I understand it, until 24 January.

Senator WONG: Was the contractor aware of any issue prior to that date?

Ms Skinner: I'm not aware that they were aware. I would have to take that on notice.

### **Answer:**

Manpower Group's ICT subcontractor, DXC Technology, were aware of the globally notified Citrix vulnerability in late December 2019 and had applied the Citrix released steps and patches as they were made available. Manpower Group were not aware of any potential issue with the DFRN prior to 24 January 2020.