

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Job Seeker Compliance

Question reference number: HS 24

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 8, 6 June 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: I want to finish what I started, please. I want to ask about the issue around people being breached. Have you breached anybody for a nil contract?

Ms Golightly: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

There is no record of the department having penalised anyone for refusing a nil hours contract.

Under legislation, a serious penalty can only be applied for refusal or non-commencement of an actual job.

The legislation also allows for a “No Show, No Pay” penalty to be applied if a job seeker deliberately behaves in a manner designed to ensure that they will not receive a future job offer with an employer (see answer to Question on Notice HS 22). The department records data in relation to “No Show, No Pay” penalties in broad categories such as “failure to attend a job interview” or “inappropriate presentation or conduct at a job interview”. Data at a more detailed level, including relating to nil contracts, is not available.