

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Alleged Medicare Fraud – Victorian Police

Question reference number: HS 18

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 120

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CAMERON: Have the Victorian police notified DHS that there was a problem with identity theft and rebate diversion?

Mr Withnell: We have spoken with Victoria Police, but they have not made us aware of any of that sort of material.

Senator CAMERON: You say you 'have spoken'; did you instigate the discussion?

Mr Withnell: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: Why?

Mr Withnell: I think there was something in the media that suggested that what was seen in New South Wales with the medical centre thefts may also have been occurring in Victoria, so we spoke with the Victorian police to see if they were aware of any.

Senator CAMERON: When was that?

Mr Withnell: I would have to take that on notice. My recollection is, I think, around August, but I will need to check.

Answer:

The Victorian Police contacted the Department of Human Services on 24 August 2015 requesting information concerning a customer's access to their myGov account.

Officers from the Department contacted the Victorian Police on 28 August 2015, 17 September 2015 and 22 September 2015 in relation to their request.

The information requested by the Victorian Police was not related to identity theft or rebate diversion.