

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 80

Program No. Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 86, 27/5/2015

Topic: Licensed Post Offices resolution

Senator Ruston, Anne asked:

CHAIR: We will send them the bill. So, how many of these franchisees are self-represented outside of the representations provided and paid for by you?

Mr Fahour: Mr Belling, as I understand it, represents the 23.

CHAIR: Do you pay for Mr Belling or do they?

Mr Fahour: We are funding Mr Belling. He recommended Max Kimber.

CHAIR: Is he the mediator?

Mr Fahour: The mediator.

CHAIR: Who pays for the mediator?

Mr Fahour: We are funding the whole process.

CHAIR: So my question is: outside of what you are paying for, how many of these people have additional legal representation?

Mr Fahour: As we understand it so far it is four.

CHAIR: They have additional legal representation?

Mr Fahour: Yes.

CHAIR: And the 23 do not?

Mr Fahour: Yes. May I take on notice to give you the exact number so we can clarify it for you?

Answer:

Currently, 23 franchisees are represented in the mediation process by Mr Belling.

The four franchisees not included in mediation have continued to engage directly with Australia Post. This engagement has not involved legal representation.

Australia Post is not aware as to whether any of these franchisees have engaged additional legal representation.