

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2014-15
26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: ATS Registration

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 26 February 2015, page 122)

QUESTION NO.: AI-30

Senator KIM CARR: How many firms are registered for ATS at the moment?

Mr Sexton: Paul Sexton, General Manager, AusIndustry. I can answer that question. There are currently—

Senator KIM CARR: Sorry?

Mr Sexton: Paul Sexton, General Manager, AusIndustry.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, I know who you are, but how many firms?

Mr Sexton: One hundred and twenty-two.

Senator KIM CARR: Twenty-two? So it was 128 last time. What has happened?

Mr Sexton: There have been six companies in the supply chain that have left the scheme, two of those as a result of their businesses being sold to another supply chain member—

Senator KIM CARR: Consolidated.

Mr Sexton: and four of those who have fallen below the threshold for eligibility in the program have dropped out of the scheme.

Senator KIM CARR: Is there not ministerial discretion for eligibility within the program?

Mr Sexton: There is the ability for a company to seek continuing registration under national interest provisions. None of those four have gone down that path.

Senator KIM CARR: Have you advised them of their eligibility to do so?

Mr Sexton: All those four are continuing to supply automotive components. They are still part of the supply chain, but they have decided not to do that.

Senator KIM CARR: That is not my question. My question is: were they advised that they could apply for support through ministerial discretion under the terms of the act?

Mr Sexton: I cannot give you a definite answer that they would definitely apply.

Senator KIM CARR: You can take that on notice?

Mr Sexton: I can take that on notice.

ANSWER

Of the four former participants who recently left the Automotive Transformation Scheme (ATS), the department discussed continued registration in the national interest with one which marginally failed the ongoing eligibility requirement. The participant chose to deregister.

The other three participants failed the ongoing eligibility requirements and expressly sought deregistration from the scheme'.