

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

QUESTION: BET 1

Topic: Fair Work Australia Report - correspondence (ATO)

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Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ:On what date did the workplace relations minister refer the Fair Work Australia report on the Health Services Union national office to the Australian Taxation Office?

Mr Quigley: Fair Work Australia actually did not refer it to the ATO. We got a copy of the preliminary report when it went on to the net publicly, which I think was around 23 December last year.

Senator ABETZ: The workplace relations minister has publicly asserted that he was going to refer the report to the Australian Taxation Office. My understanding is that he in fact has not done so. Can you advise us whether you have received any correspondence from the workplace relations minister referring the Fair Work Australia report?

Mr Quigley: I have not received any correspondence. Perhaps I could just clarify: I had a conversation with the minister's chief of staff at one stage.

Senator ABETZ: At one stage? How is that relevant?

Mr Quigley: How is that relevant? It was relevant to whether we would have access to the report or not.

Senator ABETZ: When was that?

Mr Quigley: I cannot recall when that was.

Senator ABETZ: Can you take that on notice, please?

Mr Quigley: I could take it on notice, but it will only go back to my recollection, and I will not be able to be any the wiser.

Answer:

The ATO has not received any correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations relating to the Report on Fair Work Australia's investigation into the Health Services Union National Office.

However, the Minister's Chief of Staff contacted the Second Commissioner Compliance on 19 March 2012 asking whether it would be appropriate to refer the Fair Work Australia investigation into the Health Services Union Victoria No. 1 Branch report to the ATO and advised us of the relevant link to access the report on the internet.

Following this, the ATO examined the report to see whether or not there were any tax related implications.