

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 64

Topic: Suspension of Pattison Consulting

Hansard Page: Tuesday 29 May 2012, page 93-94

Senator WILLIAMS asked:

Senator WILLIAMS: I would be very interested to see how it all panned out. Just moving on to Paul Pattison. Did he surrender his liquidation licence or is he still licensed? I know you mentioned him in your 30-odd-page report about the scrutiny you have been doing, and I congratulate you on that.

Ms Gibson: Thank you. I believe that he surrendered his licence, but let me check that. He resigned and gave an undertaking that he would cease to carry out, consent to or otherwise accept appointment as liquidator until he produces to us evidence that he has practice and capacity to perform his duties. I suspect he must still have his licence but has undertaken not to do anything with it.

Senator WILLIAMS: It is very difficult to remove his registration, isn't it? We have heard that before here, from Mr D'Aloisio. To deregister a liquidator is difficult, time consuming and expensive. So he still has his registration, but he has given an undertaking not to use it. Is that correct?

Ms Gibson: That is how I would read this paragraph, yes.

Senator WILLIAMS: I discussed it with ITSA the other night as well. I want to move on to the Ariff case—and congratulations on your work there; I know many are frustrated that it took so long, and you are well aware of that. My good friend Bill Doherty informs me that with the liquidation of Ariff's companies there are two cars missing: a Mercedes Benz and a Holden Calais—in in the summary of the report. They have even been given the registration numbers and they cannot find them anywhere. There is nothing listed on the liquidator's report. Is there anything that can be done in the liquidations in the case of the infamous Mr Ariff, where it appears that a couple of valuable cars just disappeared?

Ms Gibson: At the risk of being frivolous, I doubt he is driving them around!

Senator WILLIAMS: I am sure that is the case, and I hope it is a long time before he does drive around again.

CHAIR: ASIC has a lot of power, but I do not think that removing his driver's licence—

Senator WILLIAMS: I am just referring to the liquidation!

Ms Gibson: If you have details of those we could perhaps—

Senator WILLIAMS: I will forward the registration numbers. Are you following a case in Adelaide between a Mr Viscariello and a Mr Macks?

Ms Gibson: I personally am aware of that case, but I would prefer not to discuss the details.

Senator WILLIAMS: No, I will not discuss any details either, but I do suggest you follow it very closely, because if the mop flops the way I think it is going to then it may be very interesting. We will leave it at that.

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Ms Gibson: Thank you.

Answer:

Paul Pattison remains a registered liquidator (registration number 8575).

However, Mr Pattison, voluntarily resigned from his company appointments following ASIC's concerns about his capacity to adequately and properly carry out his duties. He also agreed not to take further appointments as an external administrator of corporate entities.

ASIC's investigation continues into the conduct and affairs of Mr Pattison and his companies including Pattison Consulting Pty Ltd.