

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 33

Topic: Leighton Holdings

Hansard Page: 11, 20 November 2013

Senator DASTYARI asked:

33. Senator DASTYARI: You say that, Chris, but there seem to be two matters here. There is obviously a serious matter of bribery allegations, which is obviously a criminal matter and I accept that is a matter for the AFP. There are also a lot of matters around the edges, particularly in relation to corporate offences. I guess my question is: when was ASIC informed, or how did you come to know about these concerns regarding Leighton Holdings?

Mr Savundra: At a very early stage, because we had a separate investigation on, it was either through that investigation and contact with the AFP or alternatively through—

Senator DASTYARI: When you say 'very early', how long ago are we talking about?

Mr Savundra: Obviously post-Leighton referring the matter to the AFP, we became aware shortly after that. I can take that on notice and give you a precise date, if that would assist.

Senator DASTYARI: Sure, but are we talking six months, are we talking a year ago, are we talking two years ago?

Mr Savundra: I would have to check when it occurred but, from memory—I would be guessing, actually. I would have to take that on notice. It was shortly after Leighton referred it to the AFP. I am not sure whether you have that date, Senator.

Senator DASTYARI: I believe I do—

Mr Savundra: I might be able to find it myself too.

Senator DASTYARI: My understanding is that the matter was kept confidential by the AFP and Leighton Holdings until 13 February 2012. I guess my question is: when did ASIC know about it? I guess that is the question you are telling me you are taking on notice.

Mr Savundra: If I could, please.

Answer:

33. ASIC first became aware that Leighton Holdings had referred concerns about possible foreign bribery to the AFP on 13 February 2012 shortly before Leighton Holdings made an announcement to the market that it was cooperating fully with the AFP on possible breaches of Code of Ethics.