

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Agency - Fair Work Building and Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000139

Senator Cameron asked on 02 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 103

Relates to previous Department of Employment Question No EMSQ15-000012 & EM1516\_15

#### Question

##### FWBC - Background of FWBC officers

Senator CAMERON: I want to go now to the issue of the inspectors and the question on notice that I gave to you. I have asked you a couple of times about the various backgrounds of the officers of the Fair Work building commission. You answered saying that to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources. I have narrowed the question, and I am wondering: are you still saying that you will not answer this question?

Mr Hadgkiss: I am still saying exactly what I have answered.

Senator CAMERON: You cannot just refuse to answer. So why are you refusing to answer, and what are you doing in terms of a proper approach on this?

Mr Hadgkiss: I have already answered that.

Senator CAMERON: No; just saying, 'I am not going to answer,' is not an answer.

Mr Hadgkiss: I have not said that. I have just said that it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Senator CAMERON: That is not an acceptable position for the Senate.

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice—your question.

Senator CAMERON: You have already taken it on notice, Mr Hadgkiss.

CHAIR: If he has already taken it on notice, why did you take—  
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#### Answer

FWBC does not collate this level of information. Collating the previous employment details of FWBC's investigators (many who have been hired by agencies that were predecessors to the current FWBC) would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources. Further, the definition of 'background' is not made clear in the question.