

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000235

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

ASEA - Departmental Dispute Resolution

1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 1. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 2. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 3. When the contract with the firm commenced.
 4. When the contract with the firm will expire.
 5. Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 6. Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

Answer

1. In general, disputes are encouraged to be resolved at the lowest practical level. Parties to a dispute must first attempt to resolve the matter at the workplace level by discussions between the employee or employees concerned and the relevant supervisor/manager.
2. No.