

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000778

Senator Cameron asked on 06 May 2016 on proof Hansard page 34

Question

Consultation between Department of Employment and Ireland's equivalent Department

Senator CAMERON: Was there a process of consultation between the department and the Irish equivalent department?

Ms Jensen: Yes. We consulted with them to understand how they run their program.

Senator CAMERON: What did that consist of?

Ms Jensen: We read all the relevant documents and evaluations and we have had a teleconference with the key people in the Irish government.

Senator CAMERON: Are the relevant documents public documents?

Ms Jensen: We need to take that on notice, because often there may be some confidentiality aspect.

Senator CAMERON: Have you picked up public documents and been supplied with documents from the Irish department?

Ms Jensen: Yes, we have.

Senator CAMERON: Can you supply us with the public documents that you have been using?

Senator Cash: I think that is what they will check for you, to make sure that they are public.

Senator CAMERON: I am not asking you to check whether they are public. The answer to my question was 'Yes, there are some public documents.'

Senator Cash: I think that is what they are taking on notice to check—to verify that they are public and were not provided in confidence.

Ms Leon: If there are any public documents, we will be happy to provide them.

Senator CAMERON: The answer I got was, 'Yes, there are public documents.'

Ms Jensen: At minimum, as I noted before, there is a public evaluation. Anything else we will need to take on notice.

Senator CAMERON: So there are public documents. Could you provide the public documents that you have used, and take on notice, in relation to these other documents that you are checking, even if they are not public documents, whether the Irish department or Irish government would make them available to the Senate?

Ms Leon: Yes.

Answer

Publicly available documents and information on the Irish JobBridge Scheme include:

- 2013 Indecon Evaluation (attached)
www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Indecon-Report-on-Evaluation-of-JobBridge.pdf
- 2015 Review of JobBridge by the National Youth Council of Ireland (attached)
www.youth.ie/sites/youth.ie/files/NYCI-JobBridge-Full-Report.pdf

- 2015 Report on JobBridge by the Impact Trade Union (attached)
www.impact.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/JobBridgeReport2015.pdf
- Additional information about JobBridge is available on the Irish Department of Social Protection website: www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/JobBridge.aspx

The Irish Department of Social Protection has agreed to provide the Australian Senate with a sample of their Standard Agreement. This form is agreed to and signed by the host organisation and job seeker prior to commencing in JobBridge. This document is attached.