

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004029

Senator Marshall asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 14

Question

Possible subcontracting by labour hire firms

Senator MARSHALL: If Senator Cameron will indulge me a little bit, you are asking at the first level of contracting—the people you engage. What about the several levels below that? You engage a labour hire firm, and you may assume—and, if you do, it is probably wrong—that they then employ all the staff that they provide to you. But it is probably subcontracted out again and maybe again. So what questioning in terms of Plutus Payroll are you asking? Are you asking whether the contracts they let have used Plutus or not?

Mr Clout: I will have to check the exact question that we have asked our labour hire firms.

Answer

Officers from the Department of Employment contacted all labour hire firms used by the Department by telephone. The script used for the calls was:

I'm calling from the Department of Employment. We have a number of staff engaged on a contract basis through your firm. You are most likely aware there has been recent media attention to Plutus Payroll Services and potential adverse impact that company has had on contractors receiving their pay. I've been asked to check with you to confirm if your company uses, or has used Plutus.

Has your firm used Plutus?

If Yes - What was the impact?

Have you taken any measures to ensure contractors are paid?