

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004034

Senator Marshall, Gavin asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 19

Question

Subcontracted contracts

Senator MARSHALL: Can you take this on notice how many contracts you have let—all contracts—that have then been subcontracted out again.

Ms Leon: We will take it on notice.

Senator MARSHALL: For instance, you engage company XYZ to provide labour hire services, but the people who then appear to do the work are employed by someone other than company XYZ—so that is labour hire. If it is a contractor, the contract might be let to, again, a company but it is someone else who provides the services, not an employee or an owner of that company.

Ms Leon: Is your question only about labour hire contracts?

Senator MARSHALL: No, all of them.

Ms Leon: I will take on notice what we can provide, but the department has thousands of contracts on foot.

Senator MARSHALL: But surely you must know. If you have entered into a contract with company XYZ and company XYZ is not the company providing the services, surely you must know that.

Ms Leon: We would know if we went through every individual contract. Whether we have a central database that has already collated what the subcontracting arrangements are, I would have to take on notice if that is the case.

Answer

The Department uses a range of contracting methods including panel arrangements established by other Commonwealth agencies, the standardised Commonwealth Contracting Suite and customised departmental contracts. All of these contracting forms include provisions in regard to sub-contracting, and this is managed on an individual contract basis and there is no central repository of information on specific arrangements.