

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004147

Senator Paterson asked on 30 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 48

Question

FWO - Transport Workers Union app - subcontractor 'Cutting Edge'

Senator PATERSON: I note from the nine-month report from the TWU that development of the app had by then been subcontracted to a group called Cutting Edge. Did the TWU seek approval from the FWO for permission to subcontract?

Ms James: I will need to check that. I know that they informed us of that in their milestone reports. We were certainly in regular dialogue with both the RTO and the TWU about their services under these contracts. I am not sure if there was a specific obligation for them. There were specific obligations that they seek our approval before they release any information, for example, and that was material to what then unfolded.

Senator PATERSON: In that communication with the TWU, did they disclose how much they paid Cutting Edge?

Ms James: I need to take that on notice.

Senator PATERSON: Fair enough. We will come back to that. You have provided on notice three reports but my understanding was that four reports were required as part of the contract. Was the final report, the fourth report, received by the FWO?

Ms James: I am not sure, but we might have that information with us. We will take that on notice.

Senator PATERSON: Thank you. There is a two-month report, a six-month report and a nine-month report, but the contract suggested that there be a fourth and final one. If you would take that on notice, that would be appreciated.

Answer

The Transport Workers Union (TWU) requested permission to subcontract to Cutting Edge, which was granted 18 June 2016.

The TWU did not disclose the total amounts paid to Cutting Edge.

The TWU provided a two, six and nine month report. They also provided a final report in the form of an email, which is attached.