

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/026) - Conflict of interest register - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Gallacher, Alex (L&CA 51) asked:

Senator GALLACHER: It is clearly not correct. The Public Works Committee is watching this broadcast and asking themselves, as I have asked them, 'Where is it?' And it ain't there. So, it did not get in 10 days ago, and it did not get in this morning when we asked for it.

Mr Wright: I will take that on notice, but it has definitely left my office, and it has definitely been sent off, so—

Senator GALLACHER: Your evidence was very clear. You said that the conflict-of-interest register was forwarded to the Public Works Committee 10 days ago. Is that correct?

Senator Cash: Chair, the witness has said he will take it on notice and he will check for the senators.

Senator GALLACHER: It is an important issue if a public servant is not giving correct evidence to a Senate committee.

CHAIR: Well, that is not an appropriate comment.

Senator Cash: And the witness has said he will take it on notice for you and go and check.

Senator PRATT: Is it possible to provide the documentation and subvert what seems to be a bogged-in bureaucracy?

Senator KIM CARR: Mr Wright said it has left his office. So, let's just establish what has happened. Is that right?

Mr Pezzullo: Well, the officer has advised me that he has personally signed it off as a divisional officer, and I presume that there is other checking, and approval processes are being gone through. If it has not arrived at the committee, I will take that as a factually correct position. So, the officer has acquitted his part of the responsibility. He will check precisely as to the state of the paper.

Senator KIM CARR: And in the process, if you can tell us where it is—that would be very handy.

Mr Pezzullo: We will make inquiries.

Answer:

A copy of the conflict of interest register was tabled during the Additional Estimates hearing of 27 February 2017.