

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/069) - Number of complaints or requests for investigation into employers breaking the rules or rorting the CSOL jobs list - Programme 1.2: Border Management

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 112) asked:

Senator PRATT: Is it common for the department to receive complaints or requests for investigations into employers breaking the rules or rorting the CSOL jobs list to bring in overseas workers into positions that are not formally listed on that list?

Mr Wilden: We do get complaints of that nature whereby people would contest that the sponsorship obligation is to define the position and that the person who comes into that position must hold the requisite skills to do so. We sometimes get complaints, particularly in the more generic occupations—things like 'project manager—not elsewhere classified'—which tend to be a bit broader. Where it is brought to our attention that someone may be employed not undertaking those jobs, we take the appropriate review action.

Senator PRATT: How many complaints of that character have you received over the last five years?

Mr Wilden: I will take that on notice.

Senator PRATT: I would appreciate it if you could provide that year by year over the last five years.

Mr Wilden: Sure.

Senator PRATT: How many investigations have you undertaken in response to complaints?

Mr Wilden: I will take that on notice as well.

Answer:

Borderwatch referrals are not recorded by type or by potential violation by the Department, and to retroactively review and categorise these referrals would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources to this task.

Over the last five years, including year to date, the Department has monitored just over 10,000 employers of subclass 457 visa holders. This includes routine audits and specific audits in response to allegations of non-compliance.