

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0170\_11**

**Senator Ronaldson asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 25.**

**Question**

**JSA PROVIDERS**

Noting the tabled document, did the department contact the British Department for Work and Pensions to ascertain whether there were any issues with fraudulent claims?

**Answer**

As answered in EW670\_10 in November 2009, "The UK Department of Work and Pensions was a referee for A4e as part of the Tender process. The letter submitted as part of A4e's tender response was dated 28 October 2008 and did not indicate any concerns with A4e's performance or operations.

The department followed up with members UK Department of Work and Pensions to verify the content of the letter.

The document tabled is part of a Memorandum submitted by A4e on 1 October 2009 to the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament's House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into "*Management and administration of contracted employment programmes*".

In March 2010, the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee published a report of their findings together with formal minutes and oral and written evidence given to the inquiry. In evidence given to the inquiry by the UK Department of Work and Pensions, it was reported that between 1 April 2006 and 31 August 2009, 78 allegations had been the subject of investigation and that 72 investigations had been completed. The report notes that "The Department said that in none of the cases was the provider engaged in systematic fraud".