

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency 4

DEEWR Question No. **EW670_10**

Senator Ronaldson asked on 21 October 2009, EEWL Hansard page 116.

Question

Did the department or those conducting the probity aspects of these tenders contact the British Department for Work and Pensions to ascertain whether there were any issues with A4e in the context of both their ability to deliver services and any issues with fraudulent claims, or any other matters that might have impacted on the viability or appropriateness of this company to receive a Job Services Australia contract.

Answer

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 contents of the letter.