

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0743_12

Senator Abetz asked on 19 October 2011 , Hansard page 45

Question

FWO - CoS investigation

Mr Wilson: I think we took the view that there were quite a number of findings which would be contested by any number of people, including the church and the complainants who had approached us. It is possibly not dissimilar to other complex and large investigations where we have done the same sort of thing as well. Senator ABETZ: You have? Mr Wilson: I believe we have. Senator ABETZ: Can you take on notice how often you have done this? That would be helpful.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman provided the following response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman does not keep records of the number of draft 'preliminary findings reports' which are, or have been, provided to parties for comment. In certain matters it is considered appropriate to circulate the preliminary findings to all parties for consideration and comment.

The standard Fair Work Ombudsman contravention letter advises the employer of the contravention/s and potential consequences and also explains the evidence that was used in reaching the determination. The contravention letter also provides the employer with the opportunity to respond and submit additional evidence. All parties to an investigation are provided with this opportunity.