

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 27 FEBRUARY 2018

FINANCE PORTFOLIO

Portfo lio QoN	QoN No.	Agency	Outcome/ Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
1	1	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Senator Gallacher	Employment in the Future Submarine Project	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Is it also correct that a further 28 employees have been seconded to work as part of the Commonwealth project office for the Future Submarines?</p> <p>Mr Whiley: Yes, we currently have 28 employees working above the line inside the Future Submarine Project from the submarines business unit.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: So where did those employees previously work?</p> <p>Mr Whiley: They came from the submarines business unit or from the shipbuilding business unit.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Can you, on notice, perhaps delineate that.</p> <p>Mr Whiley: Yes, I can give you the breakdown. I'll take it on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 38
2	2	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Senator Gallacher	Contract Periods for Secondees to the Commonwealth	<p>Mr Whiley: Again, we've put applications or offered potential candidates for, I think, all but one of those roles, and they've come from the ships and submarines business units.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: What does that do for morale? Obviously there's a career path.</p> <p>Mr Whiley: It's very positive for morale. It gives people the opportunity to go and work on new programs whilst retaining them inside the Collins space. If we have issues with Collins, we can actually draw them back into the Collins space, or potentially they can go back into the shipbuilding space as well.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Do you do that by way of a formal tender when you put these secondees to the Commonwealth?</p> <p>Mr Whiley: Yes, it's an open tender process. We compete against other companies for those roles.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: So you end up with a contract?</p> <p>Mr Whiley: Yes, there's a contract for it.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: What would be the period of any contract?</p> <p>Mr Whiley: I can take that on notice, because I think it's just changed on these particular ones. It was three years, but I think it's potentially changed. So I'll take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 39
3	3	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Senator Patrick	Submarine Industry Skilling Plan	<p>Senator PATRICK: ... I recall Defence had a submarine industry skilling plan, which was a misnomer. It really did deal with the entire shipbuilding industry. Is that something that is being updated continuously? Is there a documented plan somewhere?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Certainly, there is workforce planning that is underway. You probably need to talk to Defence about the detail on exactly where that is at.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sure, but you haven't seen a plan per se in your management of this area?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I might need to take that on notice just in terms of where that process is actually at. But certainly the workforce planning effort has to be very significant in this space.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 41
4	4	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	Parliamentary Expenses Management System	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... I want to ask you about the MYEFO measure at page 197 relating to the new Parliamentary Expenses Management System. The text indicates that Finance has provided significant offsets for the project internally—\$27.2 million between 2017-18 and 2018-19. I'm just trying to understand how that's funded.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I can confirm that the expense was offset, but, in terms of the specific measures that have been applied to offset the measure, we'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I have some additional questions, Minister, and I hope that you won't need to take all of them on notice. The text says that the cost of the measure will be partially offset by operating savings from the Department of Finance and the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority and by a provision for funding that has already been included in the forward estimates. Are you able to provide a breakdown of those numbers?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I can do that, but what that essentially means is that we previously made an allocation in the contingency reserve in relation to the expected cost of this measure. Once all the work was completed, we would properly cost the measure with further information at hand. Obviously, better information was available to make a more informed decision around what efficiencies would be able to be achieved, for example, by automating a whole range of processes that are currently done manually, which is very inefficient.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: My question is: of the total amount that Finance is to offset, \$27.2 million, what of that is to be drawn from the contingency reserve and what of that is to be found in savings made by IPEA and the Department of Finance?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We'll take that on notice ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: ... Ms Huxtable, can you give an indication of what functions Finance won't be doing over those two years, or specifically any activities that need to be curtailed or discontinued to meet those savings?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We'll provide that detail, yes.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 47 & 48

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5	5	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	Satellite Office Allowance for Large Electorates	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I don't wish to go into the policy detail; I'm just trying to understand the numbers at this point. I'm interested to understand also where the savings are going to be drawn from. What savings have been identified to allow this initiative, which is \$4.8 million, to go ahead?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Again, we'll provide the specifics for this measure on notice. But if you look at the numbers in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook you'll be able to see that all decisions to increase expenditure across the government have been more than offset by decisions to reduce expenditure. Indeed, across both the spending and the revenue sides of the budget the effect of all policy decisions, either to increase spending or to reduce revenue, have been more than offset by decisions to reduce spending or increase revenue.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I am trying to understand how those offsets have been found from within the operations.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I understand. We will provide that to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Thank you. Why doesn't this measure show any profiling? There's an indication that \$4.8 million will be provided, but that's not shown as a profile expense.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: What it means is that the expected expense was previously allocated against the budget bottom line, presumably in the contingency reserve, and that the government has made a decision that is not yet announced but is ready to be publically announced. That is why it is reflected in the document. There hasn't been a new funding decision required, because the funding was already allocated against the budget bottom line. That is why it shows these dashes. But in the measure description, in order to be appropriately transparent, we have indicated the cost of the measure nevertheless.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is there profiling available—how much is expected to be spent each year?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We can provide that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 48
6	6	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	Finance's Budget - Suppliers	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I have questions about the changes to Finance's budget in MYEFO. I'm going to the budget statement and the additional estimates statements, and looking to compare some of the figures in each of those. I'm looking at page 45 in the additional estimates statements, and page 53 in the portfolio budget statement. In relation to the line item for suppliers, there's a reasonably large jump upwards between the amount that was provided for supplier expenses in the budget and the amount that is now being estimated in the additional estimates statements. For example, the supplier expenses in 2017-18 go up \$28 million, which is quite a substantial jump. The difference between the two statements is an additional \$9 million in 2018-19, roughly \$10 million in 2019-20, and \$11 million the following year. What is driving that change?</p> <p>Mr Momcilovic: Late last year we did an update to our annual business planning cycle. This was in October, after we published the May estimates. Essentially we updated the forward year profile and the work that we currently have planned. That's the main driver of that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is that mostly consultants?</p> <p>Mr Momcilovic: I don't know exactly the specifics, whether it's consultants or another type of supplier, but that's a reflection of the program of work and the measures that we've got over the forward estimates.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Senator, we'll take that on notice, as Mr Momcilovic said, but a lot of what you see there is the impact of movement of funds since the budget, so where projects that we anticipated would be concluded in 2016-17 have required some money to come over into 2017-18. That's led to some variation in terms of the 2017-18 figure. For example, in respect of the CBMSR project there was some money that was brought across into the 2017-18 financial year, and there are a range of others. But we can break it down for you, on notice, to include all those elements.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 48 & 49
7	7	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	Financial Framework	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Similarly, in program 2.1, the costs associated with the financial framework line item seem to have dropped significantly; they are down \$6 million in 2017-18. What does that refer to?</p> <p>Mr Momcilovic: Again, that's a reflection of the business plan we did in September-October. To give you the exact details, I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Does anyone know what's changed about the financial framework costings that have seen them drop \$6 million for this financial year?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: We will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 50
8	8	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	Comcover Special Account	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... I wanted to ask you about the Comcover special account. The total expenses in the update jump from \$108 million in 2016-17 to \$177 million in the additional estimates statements. What's the reason for that jump?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Momcilovic: Through the close-out of end of financial year in May and June, we experienced a large claim event of roughly \$70 million. That's essentially what drove that change.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: A single claim?</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 50 & 51

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						<p>Mr Momcilovic: It was a large claim; correct. Senator McALLISTER: What was that in relation to? Mr Momcilovic: I understand it was related to— Ms Huxtable: We might have to take that on notice to get the details.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: You'd appreciate the level of a claim may be sensitive information. I want to check on that. Senator McALLISTER: Indeed. To the extent it is possible to provide information to me without compromising your legislative privacy obligations, I would appreciate understanding who the claimant is and what the basis of the claim was. Ms Huxtable: Sure.</p>	
9	9	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	Acting SES Numbers	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... How many people are acting within the SES at the moment? Ms Jones: I'd have to take that on notice. It's not a significant amount at the moment. Ms Huxtable: It's very few, I believe. Ms Jones: Yes, that's right. Ms Huxtable: The exact number, I'm not sure, but not many. The reason I say that with a degree of confidence is that we have recently finalised some recruitment activities and we appointed a number of people, coming out of that process. Some of those people had been acting in positions, and probably when we were here last time they were acting in positions and following a process. Either they were appointed or others were appointed to those positions. Senator McALLISTER: How many people are acting across the department overall? Ms Huxtable: I think we'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 52
10	10	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator Kitching	ARTC Rate of Return	<p>Senator KITCHING: Is it correct that the ARTC would be earning a real rate of return? ... Senator KITCHING: Going back to the business case: normally when a business case is being done there would be a projection on when it might break even or make a profit. When the business case was being done, when was the projection for when the project might break even? Senator Cormann: I'll take that on notice. ... Senator KITCHING: So, again, when would you expect—it might be that you do want to sell it, so when might that be? Senator Cormann: In relation to the specific financials on the Inland Rail project, I've taken that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 56 & 57
11	11	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator McAllister	NBN Last Equity Payment	<p>Senator McALLISTER: When was that transfer effected? Mr Jagers: It would have been at the start of this financial year. Senator Cormann: I thought it was at the end of 2016-17 but it might have been at the beginning of 2017-18. Mr Jagers: The last \$2 billion of equity was provided at the beginning of this financial year. Senator McALLISTER: In July or August, say? Mr Jagers: I believe that it was around that time. Senator Cormann: We'll get the specific date for you.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 62
12	12	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator McAllister	NBN Notification	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Thank you, but I wish to ask a question. It sounds as though there is no specific obligation for you to respond in any particular way; you are not required to do anything other than receive the notification under that part of the legislation, although other powers may be available to you in the broad. Senator Cormann: Section 91 requires, in this instance, NBN to notify the responsible minister, who in this instance is Minister Fifield and myself. We were so notified. I think it's implied that, when there is a duty to notify, the minister, having been notified, will take an interest in the notification received and will ask questions as appropriate, which I can confirm that both Minister Fifield and I did. Senator McALLISTER: You sought advice from whom? Senator Cormann: I sought advice, in my case, from my department, supporting me as the shareholder minister— Senator McALLISTER: And that advice was provided in written form, Ms Huxtable? Senator Cormann: Yes, I received written advice. Ms Huxtable: Yes. Senator McALLISTER: What was the date of that advice?</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 63 & 64

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						<p>Senator Cormann: It would have been sometime in between 22 and 27 November.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: It was the 23rd.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It was the 23rd, I'm told.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: The 23rd?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Yes. Obviously, when you receive a notification of this nature it's a matter of receiving at least relatively urgent initial advice, which was received on the next day. But I believe that there may have been a subsequent piece of advice, Mr Jagers?</p> <p>Mr Jagers: I think the advice was on the 23rd.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Sorry, Mr Jagers; I couldn't hear what you were saying.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll take this on notice—I'm keen to be accurate; I wouldn't want to mislead the committee—but I certainly remember that I sought immediate advice. I believe that I may have received some further advice down the track. But, be that as it may, NBN made its decision on the 21st, Minister Fifield and I were notified on the 22nd, consistent with section 91 of the PGPA Act, and the NBN company made the announcement of its decision on 27 November.</p>	
13	13	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator McAllister	NBN Rate of Return	<p>Senator McALLISTER: In preparing your advice for the minister, Ms Huxtable and Mr Jagers, did you seek any external advice on this occasion?</p> <p>Mr Jagers: In preparing advice we spoke to the Department of Communications and the Arts and we received some further information from NBN prior to providing advice to the minister.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Did your advice provide information to the minister about the impact of this decision on the rate of return?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Obviously, one thing I was interested in was the financial implications of the decision that the NBN board had made for the Commonwealth, but it did not change—if that is your next question—our assessment of the fact that we expect a sufficiently positive rate of return for the equity investment in NBN to continue to be classified as an equity injection.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Do you expect that it will nonetheless lower the rate of return?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I might have to take that question on notice, because I'm just mindful of the potential for commercial sensibilities here. I want to be as helpful as possible in terms of the answers we provide but I want to be able to carefully consider the public interest and whether there is a case to claim a public interest exemption. But I make this commitment to the committee: I will be as open and transparent in relation to this as I possibly can be.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 63
14	14	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	CBMSR Final Cost Breakdown	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... I want to ask about the CBMS rollout. The last time we discussed this, I think you had two units to go and you anticipated that they would be rolled out during the MYEFO process. You also said that you expected the final cost would be available in early 2018. Do you have a final cost breakdown?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Yes, I can confirm that the phased functional rollout concluded on 13 December. We did provide on notice—I think it was question 9—a cost at that point in time, and I can update that by telling you that the figure for the total commitment is \$127.4 million. That is an apples-to-apples comparison with the information that was provided following the last estimates.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is it possible to update the table that's contained in question on notice 9? You can take it on notice or table it today.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I can probably table it a little bit later.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 64 & 65
15	15	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister	CBMSR Ongoing Costs	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Are there ongoing support costs, now that what might be described as the capital phase of the project is completed?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Yes, Senator, there are. I think I know the number; it's \$12 million a year.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: How does that compare to what was being paid for the previous system?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: It was about \$8 million, but I think the point to make here is: as we've discussed before, the previous system was not sustainable and could not be supported. We were down to our last few coders who could remedy the system when there were faults. So we have to put the whole of the budget management system on a new, sustainable and upgradable platform going forward.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: What does that \$12 million per annum comprise? How much of that is to external suppliers and how much of that is absorbed within department staff?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Can we take that on notice so that we can provide it in the way that you've asked for it?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes. Is there another way that you can give me information about that \$12 million? I may have asked the question incorrectly.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: The majority of it is in the supplier cost, but can we take it on notice so we can break it down? We can try to bring it back, if you wish to get the breakdown.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: That would be good ...</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, 65

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16	16	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Senator McAllister	MYEFO – Decisions Taken But Not Yet Announced	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... I want to ask questions about some of the information in the MYEFO at page 134. This is the final page of the very long table that sets out all of the expense measures since the 2017-18 budget. There is an indication right at the end of the table that decisions taken but not yet announced add up to about \$1.2 billion in net savings. I appreciate that not all of those decisions bundled up in that row will be saves, but the net effect of decisions taken but not yet announced runs to \$1.2 billion between 2018-19 and 2020-21.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: What is your question?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Most of those are decisions taken but not yet announced. On balance there are, obviously, more saves than spends in the forward estimates so there must be some saving measures that you haven't yet announced.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It is actually quite a small number particularly if you look at it in real terms. Just to put it in context, in the 2010-11 budget—so we are talking 7½ years ago when that was delivered—the equivalent number was \$1.37 billion. In the 2012-13 MYEFO—that is five years earlier—under the previous government the equivalent number was \$1.7 billion of net savings, as you would put it. In this 2017-18 MYEFO, I can confirm the number as published in the MYEFO document, of course, of just over \$1 billion, which in comparative terms is less than what it has been in the past and broadly in line. So, yes, by definition this is a reflection of decisions taken but not yet announced, but they will be announced in due course. I wish to reassure you immediately, because we have discussed this in the past, that by the time we need to go to the election in the first half of next year, when the pre-election economic fiscal outlook is released independently by the secretaries of Treasury and Finance, anything that is in this box that has not yet been announced will then be announced. That is entirely consistent with the charter of budget honesty. It is consistent with practice under previous governments. If anything, the number in particular once adjusted for inflation since that time, is somewhat less than it has been in previous budgets under the previous government.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Have any of these measures been announced since?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take on notice the specifics...</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 66
17	17	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator Kitching	Whole of Government Recruitment	<p>Senator KITCHING: Can I ask you: how much has been spent on personnel recruitment across the whole of government?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Could I ask for those figures in each financial year from 2013-14 onwards?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would encourage you to, maybe, ask for those figures from 2007-08 onwards and we can properly answer.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Can I have them from 2013-14 onwards?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take on notice the numbers from 2007-08.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: All the way through?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: All the way through to the current will be provided.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 73
18	18	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator Kitching	Austender Searches	<p>Senator KITCHING: ... Can I ask the same on risk management consultation services?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take them on notice but I just say to you again, I am open and upfront about the limitations. We don't collect the sort of information that you're asking for on a whole-of-government basis. If we were to seek all of that information, just because of the latest fashion in terms of asking a particular question that doesn't contribute to the appreciation of the financial performance and the financial efficiency of the Commonwealth, it would tie up the Commonwealth public service in red tape. We are not prepared to tie up the Commonwealth public service in red tape just to respond to what is, quite frankly, an inaccurate view about what is relevant when it comes to the performance and efficiency of the Commonwealth public service. I will take it all on notice but I'm telling you that it wouldn't be very helpful.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Can I also have the figures for the feasibility studies or screening of project ideas across the whole of government?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: You have to be a bit more specific, because I suspect that there are a lot of feasibility studies.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Well, feasibility studies or screening of project ideas. I think that will be a search term.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That is too broad. If that's what you want me to do I will take it on notice and the answer will probably be, as it was for Senator Wong in response to these sorts of questions, an inappropriate diversion of public resources to try to answer that question.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What about lobbying services from 2013-14 onwards or 2007-08?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice, but I've already qualified that.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: And professional procurement services as well.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: With the same qualifier I will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 74
19	19	Department of	2/2.1	Senator	Qube	<p>Senator KITCHING: Do you know if the consortium met with other ministers or their officers?</p>	Hansard Proof, 27

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		Finance		Kitching	Consortium Meeting with Other Ministers	Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice. I'm just looking at a press release from 13 December 2013, where the then Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and I invited expressions of interest to develop a new freight hub in Sydney's south-west, at Moorebank. That process was managed appropriately at arm's length by the Moorebank Intermodal Company, with a board that was 100 per cent appointed by the previous Labor government. I suspect that the then Deputy Prime Minister may have had relevant meetings, but I would have to take that on notice. I think the process continued in 2014. Again, proper processes were followed all the way through.	February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 75
20	20	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Senator Kitching	Moorebank Meeting	<p>Senator KITCHING: Do you recall what was discussed in your meeting?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Not precisely. I can review my records and get back to you on notice. This was 4½ years ago.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did you meet with representatives from Qube?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: When?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: At any time? Or SIMTA?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: This is a bit difficult now. I have already taken on notice—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I'm happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: In the discussion, was there any discussion about the scrapping of the second stage of the tender process?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll take it on notice and see what I can assist you with. Obviously, somewhere along the way, the board and management of the Moorebank Intermodal Company formed a view that, as a result of the competitive expression of interest process, there was one respondent that was materially stronger in comparison to the other respondents. They made the decision, independently and appropriately at arms-length from the government, that that was what they should do. I'll verify my records, but I suspect that prior to the announcement on 22 May, as one of the two shareholder ministers—together with the Minister for Infrastructure—I would have been briefed on the intentions of the Moorebank Intermodal Company in relation to this process moving forward, which is, of course, entirely appropriate.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did Qube or its consortium have any input into the meeting?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Which meeting?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: The meeting in late April 2014, involving you, the Moorebank chair and the Moorebank CEO?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: No. That would have been highly inappropriate. I'm going to verify when the meeting took place and what was discussed, but absolutely not. No.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did the consortium contact you or your office about the meeting?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware, but, out of an abundance of caution, I'll check my records.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 76, 77, 78, 79
21	21	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Paterson	APH Bollards	<p>CHAIR: ... Ms Jones, we heard evidence that three comcars had unfortunately collided with the bollards or been collided with by the bollards. Can you confirm that's right? Three comcars have been damaged?</p> <p>Ms Jones: That's correct. It was three cars.</p> <p>CHAIR: What is the extent of the damage to the cars?</p> <p>Ms Jones: The damage did require that the cars be repaired, but all three of the cars have been now returned to service.</p> <p>CHAIR: That's good to hear. What was the cost of the repairs?</p> <p>Ms Jones: We paid an excess payment of \$500 per vehicle to Comcover for the repairs. In terms of the specific amount for the cost of the repairs, I think I'd have to take that on notice, but it was covered by the insurance. We just paid the excess.</p> <p>CHAIR: For our interest, if you could take that on notice, that would be helpful.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 82
22	22	Department of Finance	General	Senator Paterson	Privacy and FOI	<p>CHAIR: ... What I am interested in is the answer that came back to my question on notice subsequent to the hearing, because I think there's an important principle at stake here which I'm concerned about. In particular, in the second paragraph of the department's answer—which I'll read to you for the benefit of anyone watching who has an interest—it says:</p> <p>In accordance with the Department of Finance's obligations under the Privacy Act 1988, it is not the practice of the Department to provide the individual names of Senators and Members of Parliament who may be involved in such matters. Although information on the work expenses incurred by individual MPs and Senators may be released from time to time under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act), the FOI Act provides for consultation with the affected individuals and gives them review rights where they do not agree with the release of their personal information.</p> <p>So there are two related issues raised by that. The first is that it appears to be the department's view that the Privacy Act prevents it from complying with its obligations in the Senate estimates process, and the second is that the department believes it has a greater obligation to provide materials under the</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 90,91 & 92

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						<p>FOI Act than it has to Senate committees through the Senate estimates process. So I just wanted to test whether the two assumptions I've drawn from that answer are correct.</p> <p>...</p> <p>CHAIR: Of course. I was acknowledging that privacy is a principle to consider when making a public interest immunity claim, but the Privacy Act, in my view, is not a consideration. Privacy is a principle that could be a consideration of a public interest immunity claim—there is no public interest immunity claim that has been made here yet—but you have cited the Privacy Act as a reason why you might not be able to answer questions asked in Senate estimates.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: With the greatest respect to the committee, in order to ensure we don't waste too much time on this, why don't I take this on notice? I give a commitment to the committee that I'll personally review the information sought and the answer that has been provided in the past with a view of assessing whether there is an appropriate public interest immunity ground in the government's view or whether there is not, and if we can add to the answer that has been provided previously we will do so.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. So I'll put that part of the question aside, and move on quickly to the other related issues. The second part of the question indicates that the department will and may provide this information under FOI, but might not provide it under Senate estimates. Indeed, the department did release this information subsequently under FOI. Is it the department's view that your obligations to comply under the FOI Act are greater or more important than your obligations to comply with the Senate estimates process?</p> <p>...</p> <p>CHAIR: I would appreciate it if you carefully reflect on this question. You're all very experienced public servants; you know the words I read out at the beginning of every hearing. There is only one ground on which you can decline to provide information to the committee, and that's if you make a public interest immunity claim. I would hate to see this principle be established—that the department can decline to provide information without making a public interest immunity claim and without substantiating it. It's obviously a matter for the committee and, ultimately, the Senate to consider whether we accept the public interest immunity claim, but if it's not even made then we don't have the opportunity to test that. In your consideration of these issues, I will table now, and also provide to you, some advice that I sought on this matter from the Clerk of the Senate. I would not dare verbal the carefully written two-page letter by the Clerk and what he says there, but if I could summarise it then I think it's fair to say that he believes that further information needs to be provided if you're going to be making public interest immunity claims.</p> <p>Ms Jones: Thank you, Senator. We'll look at that closely and consider it and then discuss it in the department, in terms of a general approach in the future.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you. So I would appreciate any information you can provide in relation to this on notice. I will just note, for your future reference, that I will be reading your answer to that question on notice with great interest and, if necessary, following up in the next round of estimates.</p>	
23	23	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Kitching	Deferral of Termination Under the MOP(S) Act	<p>Senator KITCHING: Has the deferral of termination—the two-week period—applied to all ministerial changes under the Abbott-Turnbull government since 2013?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We'll take on notice the specifics.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 92
24	24	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Lines	Arrangements for MOP(S) Staff Following an Election	<p>Senator LINES: ... When an election's called, at what point do personal staff step down?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I wrote a detailed letter on all of these arrangements for all categories of senators—those up for re-election, those not up for re-election, those who are office holders, those who are shadow ministers. I wrote a detailed letter to the opposition in relation to this in the lead-up to the last election. What I propose to do, if you're genuinely interested in all of that detail, is provide you with a copy of that letter, on notice.</p> <p>Senator LINES: Yes. That's fine. Thank you.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 93
25	25	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Kitching	Leave Categories Under the MOP(S) Act	<p>Senator KITCHING: How many miscellaneous leave days? In some employment contracts there might be two days of bereavement leave. It think NAB, for example, has implemented a policy of two days, or maybe it is more than that, of domestic violence leave, for example. So, what's the miscellaneous leave amount?</p> <p>Mr Ford: You don't accrue miscellaneous leave. Miscellaneous leave is there for certain events.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: How many of those days are there under the MOP(S) Act?</p> <p>Mr Ford: There's zero.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Oh—there's none. So it could be quite a long period.</p> <p>Mr Ford: I'm not sure that it's defined or not. I might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: If it's helpful, Senator, we could take this on notice and set out the leave categories and the relevant times and circumstances, which will be in the enterprise agreement, but we can provide that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 94

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26	26	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Kitching	MOP(S) Leave Requests Received	<p>Senator KITCHING: In the last financial year, how many leave requests have been approved?</p> <p>Mr Ford: We'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Could I have the last two financial years? Is that possible?</p> <p>Mr Ford: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: And how many leave requests have been rejected—or are they rejected?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Just to clarify: we don't approve or reject. We receive—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: How many have you received?</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 94
27	27	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Kitching	MOP(S) Leave Extensions	<p>Senator KITCHING: ... Can the Prime Minister or the Special Minister of State grant leave extensions that do not align with these standard processes?</p> <p>Mr Ford: Certainly the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Can the SMOS—</p> <p>Mr Ford: We think yes—</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Maybe we shouldn't think and we should just take it on notice, just to be sure.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 95
28	28	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Rice	Review of Policies and the Conditions of MOP(S) Act Staff	<p>Senator RICE: How many other equivalent types of policies are there and what's the process? Are you looking at a whole raft of policies, given that you're reviewing this one?</p> <p>Mr Ford: It's really about ongoing improvement, an ongoing search to maintain best-practice arrangements. I couldn't tell you how many policies there are that we administer.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You could take them on notice though.</p> <p>Mr Ford: We could probably take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Are you reviewing other ones, at the moment, or is it just the bullying and sexual harassment one that's being reviewed at present?</p> <p>Mr Ford: I would think, at any point in time, we're reviewing more than one policy.</p> <p>Senator RICE: What other ones are you reviewing at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Ford: I might have to consult with my colleagues.</p> <p>Ms Jones: Or we could take it on notice, which could save some time.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 96
29	29	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Farrell	Obligation for Sexual Harassment Training	<p>Senator FARRELL: In 2012, James Ashby commenced legal proceedings against then Speaker Peter Slipper ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: ... Under the period of the previous government. He settled his case for \$50,000 and a commitment from the government to introduce training for all MPs and senators regarding sexual harassment. He still had a civil case proceeding against Mr Slipper. As the Special Minister of State, Gary Gray oversaw the commencement of sexual harassment awareness training for all senators and members. You can find that on the finance department's website. The circular notes that the training sessions would be held in late 2012 and that:</p> <p>I have also asked the Department to make online training in sexual harassment awareness available to Senators and Members early in 2013.</p> <p>I refer to Ministerial Circular No. 2012/54 regarding sexual harassment awareness sessions for senators and members. What was the obligation for sexual harassment awareness training following the James Ashby settlement with the federal government in 2012?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Obviously I wasn't in the portfolio in 2012—</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: I understand.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: and neither was anybody else at the table. Were you here, Mr Ford?</p> <p>Mr Ford: I've been around, but I don't recall—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: You were not in that area. I'd have to take that on notice. It relates to a previous government, so I will have to do some research on notice as to what was done by relevant people at the time.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 97
30	30	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Farrell	Current Sexual Harassment Awareness Training	<p>Senator FARRELL: Is the sexual harassment awareness training currently available for senators and members?</p> <p>Mr Ford: I might need to take that on notice too.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 97 & 98
31	31	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Farrell	Uptake of Sexual Harassment	<p>Senator RICE: Can you take on notice how many times either the online or the one-day course has been accessed by parliamentarians?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am happy to do that.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 98

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					Awareness Training by Parliamentarians		
32	32	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Farrell	Delegations by the Prime Minister in Relation to the MOP(S) Act	<p>Senator FARRELL: ... Can I ask this question: is there a formal written legal instrument of delegation authorising the chief of staff or the personal private secretary to exercise the PM's power under the MOP(S) Act?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: As you would be aware, the Prime Minister has certain powers.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Minister, can I just finish my question?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: You are asking me a question that doesn't relate to the Finance portfolio. I was about to tell you that the question you are asking is a question that goes to the Prime Minister's portfolio. I am happy to take it on notice, but the Prime Minister has certain powers in his own right under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act, and the arrangements in his office or with his department on delegating certain of those powers by the Prime Minister is really a matter that I would have to refer to the Prime Minister's portfolio.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Thank you, Minister. I very much appreciate that. In taking that on notice, can I complete my question which is: is there a formal written legal instrument of delegation authorising the chief of staff or personal private secretary to exercise the PM's powers under the MOP(S) Act or are they simply acting as the PM's agent? If I can get an answer to that question I would appreciate it.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I have already indicated that that is a question for the Prime Minister's portfolio and I have taken it on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: But the MOP(S) Act is administered within this portfolio.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Not entirely. It is a shared responsibility between the Prime Minister and the Special Minister of State. Any delegations by the Prime Minister are obviously matters for the Prime Minister, and I would want to consult to ensure that I have the appropriate information at hand before I provide an answer.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 105
33	33	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Farrell	MOP(S) Staff Being Paid Above Band Ranges	<p>Senator FARRELL: Minister, we have asked questions at previous estimates about the number of staff who were being paid above the published band ranges. At the last estimates we were advised that that figure was 30. Is that still an accurate figure?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I just provided you with a report.</p> <p>Mr Ford: We could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: You could provide that, yes. At the last estimates Minister Ryan also confirmed that these above-band appointments—for which we need to get updated figures—are costing about \$839,000 every year. Is that figure still correct?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Okay. Can you confirm the current total cost paid to those staff members per annum as a single sum?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Thank you. The total cost per annum paid above band to whatever the number of staff members is.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Yes, I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: And in which offices they are located.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll see whether he can assist you with that.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 105 & 106
34	34	Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority	General	Senator Farrell	Meetings with Parliamentarians	<p>Senator FARRELL: ... As I understand it, you've been meeting with individual parliamentarians. Can you tell us how that's gone? Ms Godwin: Thank you. I have spent some time meeting with individual parliamentarians, and those meetings have gone very well, in terms of sharing what IPEA does. They have, effectively, been a meet-and-greet process, explaining the principles, working through the fact sheet and answering any questions that people have had at that time.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: How receptive have parliamentarians been?</p> <p>Ms Godwin: The people that I have met to date have been very receptive. It's been a very positive experience.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: How many have you met with?</p> <p>Ms Godwin: I've met with all the committee members from this committee, plus a couple of others. I don't have the exact number. I can get that for you on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 107 & 108
35	35	Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority	General	Senator Farrell	Unanswered Queries	<p>Senator FARRELL: Have any queries gone unanswered for any reason?</p> <p>Ms Godwin: We have a call inquiry closure rate which is running at about 93 per cent; that was from 1 July 2017 to 31 January 2018. There are some calls which have not been closed, but also there are calls that come in. We have to have a point in time. Calls will come in and then we proceed to work those through. For a point in time approach, that's a good rate for us to have.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: And that's seven per cent?</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 109 & 110

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						<p>Ms Godwin: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Ninety-three, isn't it?</p> <p>Ms Godwin: Ninety-three per cent—the calls and closure rate is what I'm—</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: So 93 per cent get their query answered. The seven per cent—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: They're still in progress at the point in time. Senator FARRELL: You're still taking a bit of time to respond or you don't know the answer?</p> <p>Ms Godwin: I can get the person who looks after the travel advice team to provide some more specific information.</p> <p>Mr House: Andrew House, Acting Branch Manager, Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority. We can give you the exact answer on notice, but the seven per cent probably relates to a point in time, whereas we've got a measure where we try to respond to calls within 48 hours and then answer them within agreed time frames. It may just be that, with a point in time of 31 January, there were a few calls outstanding. But we can take that on notice.</p>	
36	36	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Farrell	Personal Loans	<p>Senator FARRELL: ... Are there any rules about candidates making personal loans to political parties they endorsed candidates for? In your experience, is it common practice for candidates to make personal loans to parties they are endorsed candidates for? Are there any rules around candidates charging interest on personal loans they make to political parties? Are there any rules around candidates being paid interest from public funding on personal loans they've made? Would you agree it's possible for candidates to personally profit from elections by lending their party money, charging an interest rate on this loan and having the interest repaid from public funding? If a matter like this one described occurred, would the AEC seek to investigate it? If a matter like this one described occurred, which section of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 would it breach?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: We'll take those on notice</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 120
37	37	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Rhiannon	Associated Entities	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. What about the Business Council of Australia? Could it be classed as an associated entity?</p> <p>Mr Pirani: Again, I would have to take that on notice to have a look at our records.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. What about the Queensland Resources Council?</p> <p>Mr Pirani: Not that I'm aware of, but I'll take that on notice as well.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 122
38	38	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Rhiannon	Associated Entity Investigation	<p>Senator RHIANNON: ... The AEC is currently investigating whether or not GetUp! could be classed as an associated entity. You said previously, at hearings before JSCEM, that the investigation will be finalised in a matter of weeks, not months. Can you give us an update on the time line, please?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I would use the same answers I used with Senator Watt in talking about One Nation. That matter is active at the moment, and we are hoping to bring that to conclusion as soon as we possibly can.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: This is the third such investigation of GetUp!. Has any other organisation undergone three investigations?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Mr Pirani?</p> <p>Mr Pirani: I cannot recall one.</p> <p>Mr Rogers: But, to be accurate, we'll take that on notice ...</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 122 & 123
39	39	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator McCarthy	Indigenous Electoral Participation Program	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Mr Rogers, more than three years ago the AEC identified that 42 per cent of Indigenous people were not enrolled to vote. What's the current situation?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: As you correctly point out, it's on the public record that Indigenous Australians are, we feel, the most underrepresented group on the electoral roll. There is some supposition with that because, when we ask people to enrol, we don't ask them to declare their heritage or ethnic background, so we have undertaken research to back that up. They are definitely underrepresented on the electoral roll, and we are running a range of activities to try and address that. One of those is the Indigenous Electoral Participation Program. We have a program that is delivering services Australia-wide. The budget for that this year is \$2.4 million or thereabouts. We have 10 IEPP—Indigenous Electoral Participation Program—community engagement officers.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Where are they based?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: All around Australia.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Would you break that down in terms of jurisdictions?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I can take that on notice and provide you with that breakdown. In addition, we are trying to do some collaborative work with our friends in the Northern Territory Electoral Commission at the moment to ensure that we target our services where there is the most need. You might be aware that</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 124

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						<p>at election time we do a range of different activities, including translating much of our material into various Indigenous languages. We have Indigenous interpreters in polling places at various places, and we do a range of communications activities in various Indigenous languages as well. So we have an active program, and we are trying to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage in electoral participation. We do take it seriously. I think the IEPP started about 2008 or 2009, from memory—around that period.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: How many staff do they have?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: You say that there are a number of languages. How many languages?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: How many Indigenous languages? Forgive me, please, we will take that on notice as well. By the way, we seek advice on which are the most appropriate languages to use, the same as we do with the provision of other language services. As you may know, a lot of our material is translated not just into Indigenous languages but into a whole range of languages at election time and before election time. We rely on advice from a whole range of different areas about which languages to use and to interpret our materials into.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Would you be able to take on notice the names of those languages as well as who you seek advice from in order to use those languages?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Since the restructure and the shift of jobs to Brisbane and out of Darwin, how many IEPP site visits have taken place in Northern Territory and Western Australia?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I'll take that on notice too.</p>	
40	40	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Senator McAllister	Staff Credit Cards	<p>Senator McALLISTER: So there are 152 staff and 145 cards, so there are seven unlucky people who don't have a credit card?</p> <p>Mr Neal: I suspect that there may still be cards around for people who have left, or something. I don't know. I couldn't tell you exactly how many—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take it on notice to make sure that we provide an accurate answer as to what the eligibility is for an official credit card for employees at the Future Fund Management Agency. In relation to credit cards, of course, what matters is the authorisation. It's a payment methodology and what matters is the authorised expenditure for proper purposes.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 127
41	41	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Abetz	Associated Entities	<p>1a. What process does the AEC pursue to recognise/identify new Associated Entities?</p> <p>1b. (i) Does the AEC adopt a proactive approach to determine Associated Entity status of an organisation?</p> <p>1b. (ii) If so, how many such proactive investigations have been undertaken in the past three years?</p> <p>1b. (iii) And, how many of the investigations referred to in (ii) above have led to an organisation being registered as an Associated Entity?</p> <p>1c. Does the AEC solely rely on complaints to investigate and determine Associated Entity status of an organisation?</p>	Written
42	42	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Senator Bartlett	Federal Government Contracts	PwC admits it made \$442.4m over five years from federal government contracts. The firm is also the third overall largest donor to the major parties. Are firms like this, KPMG and EY effectively buying contracts? Why are they spending hundreds of thousands on donations otherwise?	Written
43	43	Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	General	Senator Reynolds	Reviewable Invalidation Benefit	Is a reviewable invalidity benefit administered by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation paid under either the MSBS or DFRDB act a pension in accordance with Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994 - REG 1.06 (1) (a) (i) and in the event that the answer is yes, which standard of Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994 - REG 1.06 subregulation (9A) applies to the payment?	Written
44	44	Department of Finance; Australian Electoral Commission; Commonwealth	2/2.5	Senator Carr	Paper Procurement	For each Australian Government Department and/or government agency, can the Department of Finance please provide a breakdown of the percentage of Australian made copy paper purchased by the Department/agency in the 2017-18 financial year to date, as well as the total percentage of Australian made copy paper purchased by the Australian Government in the 2017-18 financial year to date. In the Department's response, please include information on volumes, a breakdown by country of origin, the supplier and the percentage of recycled content.	Written

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		Superannuation Corporation; Future Fund Management Agency					
45	45	Department of Finance	General	Senator McAllister / Senator Kitching	Tender into Visa Processing	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Are you saying that the decision to privatise visa processing did not go to cabinet?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: What I said yesterday, I am not aware of the tender processes that I was asked questions about, and I am not aware of the—again, you are making assertions about what is happening, and I am at a disadvantage because it is not in my portfolio and I am not aware of the issue that you raise.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I am asking you whether there has been a decision of government and whether that decision of government was taken by cabinet or through some other means.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: No, I didn't. The record will show that yesterday more than one senator referred to privatisation. Nevertheless, I refer you to page 126 of the budget paper 2017-18. What you will see there is that the government will invest \$185 million over four years, from 2017-18, on significant reforms to Australia's visa-processing arrangements and it talks about a range of matters, including improvements to existing ICT systems. That decision, to make these reforms and invest in these improvements, went through a cabinet process. It is a matter of record; it was publicly announced in our budget last year. In terms of the specific tender process, it is not a process that I have any visibility of whatsoever. Yes, Finance maintains a register of all the tenders that are active at any time, which are thousands and thousands of tenders. I don't have any visibility of this particular tender and I certainly don't have any visibility on the decision-making in relation to who the successful tenderer should be. I am not even sure where the process is at. But if you want me to obtain further information, in relation to this, I am quite happy to do so.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes, that would be good, thank you.</p>	Hansard Proof, 27 February 2018. F&PA Committee, Page 60, 61 & 62
46	46	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Ministerial Functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2017, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written
47	47	Australian Electoral Commisison	General	Senator Rhiannon	Drafting Advice - Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017	<p>1. Did the AEC advise the government on the drafting of 287H(5) of the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017?</p> <p>a. If so what was that advice?</p>	Written
48	48	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Executive Upgrades - Finance	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, upgraded in calendar year 2017? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written

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49	49	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Facilities Upgrades - Finance	Were the facilities of any of the Department's premises upgraded in calendar year 2017, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written
50	50	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Ministerial Overseas Travel	Can a copy of all correspondence exchanged between Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio and the Prime Minister in relation to approval for overseas travel in calendar year 2017 please be provided?	Written
51	51	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Staff Travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental employees in calendar year 2017?	Written
52	52	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Media Monitoring	What was the Department's total expenditure on media monitoring in calendar year 2017?	Written
53	53	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Advertising and Information Campaigns	What was the Department's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in calendar year 2017?	Written
54	54	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Promotional Merchandise	What was the Department's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in calendar year 2017?	Written
55	55	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Senator Kitching	Whole of Government Travel Spend	What was the cost of the whole-of-government travel spend in calendar year 2017?	Written
56	56	Department of Finance	2/2.8	Senator Leyonhjelm	Purchase of Financial Assets	Investment Funds involve the purchase of financial assets. Given budget deficits over the past decade, these purchases of financial assets have effectively been funded by increased government debt. What is the appropriate level of such borrowing to purchase financial assets?	Written
57	57	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Senator Kitching	Functions	In relation to expenditure on any Agency functions or official receptions in calendar year 2017, can the following please be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written
58	58	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Senator Kitching	Executive Office Upgrades – Future Fund	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Chairman's office, or the offices of any other Executives, upgraded in calendar year 2017? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written
59	59	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Senator Kitching	Facilities Upgrade – Future Fund	Were the facilities of any of the Agency's premises upgraded in calendar year 2017, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written

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60	60	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Senator Kitching	Credit Cards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2017 and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2017? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2017? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in calendar year 2017? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2017 and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2017? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in calendar year 2017 and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2017? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 10. Can a copy of the agency's staff credit card policy please be provided? 	Written
61	61	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Rhiannon	Breaches of the Commonwealth Electoral Act	How many claims of breaches of the Commonwealth Electoral Act has the AEC investigated in the last financial year, financial year 2015-16 and 2014-15.	Written
62	62	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Rhiannon	Matters Referred to the Commonwealth DPP	How frequently has the AEC referred any matters to the Commonwealth DPP for investigation for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?	Written
63	63	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Rhiannon	Funding and Disclosure	It is understood the AEC has a MOU with the AFP. Are most of the matters in the funding and disclosure are handled by your investigators or the AFP investigators. How is this work organised between the AEC and AFP.	Written
64	64	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Senator Rhiannon	Disparity between State, Territory and AEC Rolls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current disparity between the state and territory rolls and the AEC roll? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide an update on the work being undertaken to reduce the inconsistency between the two rolls. Please include information on what departments and agencies the AEC currently engages with and the methodology is followed to gather data for the federal roll. 	Written
65	65	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Senator Farrell	Employee Statistics	<p>Can the Department provide the following (previously provided in the annual report for the financial year 2016-2017):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total employee numbers by employment type 2. Total employee numbers by classification 3. Electorate employee numbers by employment type, working hours, classification, gender and year 4. Personal employee numbers by employment type, classification, gender and year 5. Personal employee numbers by working hours, classification, gender 6. Work bases for all electorate and personal employees by classification, gender, state and year 7. Government personal positions 	Written

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						<p>8. Parliamentary Secretaries' personal employee allocations</p> <p>9. Other Government personal employee</p> <p>10. Total Government personal employee allocations</p> <p>11. Other Government, Opposition, Other Opposition and Other personal employee allocations</p> <p>12. Total Other Government, Opposition, Other Opposition and Other personal employee allocations</p> <p>13. All Personal classifications</p>	
66	66	Department of Finance	General	Senator Kitching	Departmental and Agency Functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2017, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written
67	67	Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	General	Senator Burston	Comsuper – Relationship with Child Support Agency	<p>Are you aware that Comsuper notifies the Child Support Agency that veterans are employees of Comsuper? This allows the Child Support Agency to issue a Section 72A notice to garnishee the veteran's service pension as if it were income.</p> <p>Are you able to give an undertaking that this practice will be terminated in the immediate term?</p>	Written
68	68	Department of Finance		Senator McAllister	Austender Payment Times	<p>Can the Department of Finance please provide the typical payment times for AusTender contracts of within the following thresholds?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. \$250,000 - \$999,999 b. \$1m - \$4.999m c. \$5m and above. 	Written
69	69	Department of Finance		Senator McAllister	Consultants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Across whole of Government, how much has been spent on consultants for each of the last four financial years, expressed as a dollar amount for each year 2. Specifically in Finance, how much has been spent on consultants for each of the last four financial years, expressed as a dollar amount for each year? 3. Please list the top five most expensive consultant contracts in dollar terms across whole of Government for this financial year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What value was each contract? - What work was each contract for? - What Department issued each contract? - Which company/business carried out each contract 4. Please detail what policies or processes are in place to ensure the Department of Finance receives value for money when hiring consultants. 	Written

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						5. Please detail what policies or processes are in place within the Department of Finance to reduce spending on consultants. 6. Please detail what advice the Department of Finance gives other Government departments and agencies to ensure value for money and to rein in spending when it comes to hiring consultants 7. How does the Department keep track of how much money it spends on consultants? 8. How does the Department keep track of how much money is spent on consultants across whole of Government?	