

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019 – 2020
PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS – Parliamentary Departments

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard/ Written	Date Rec'd
1	President of the Senate	Kitching, Kimberley	Privileges motion—correspondence	<p>Senator KITCHING: At the end of 2018, the Senate passed a motion relating to parliamentary privilege and the seizure of material by executive agencies—</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I can read it out.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: It's the resolution that I corresponded to, I think—I tabled the list at the last estimates—every Chief Commissioner of Police, judicial branches, state parliamentary clerks and other security-type agencies.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Have you received any feedback?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: I think I've got a couple of pieces of correspondence in reply, but I'll have to take it on notice and list them. I think I got a couple of letters acknowledging receipt of it, but I can't remember the content of those responses.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What about the Department of Finance? As a former Special Minister of State, you'd be aware that the Department of Finance has a role in maintaining Commonwealth parliamentary officers in the electorate offices of parliamentarians. Have you received any information back from them or any thoughts they might have?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: I don't think so, but I'll correct that on the record if I have. I don't think I've received anything from the Department of Finance. It is an issue that I am aware of—the reason you outline—as a former Special Minister of State. Of course, in a number of state parliaments, electorate offices and things are overseen by the Department of Parliamentary Services or a joint house committee that's effectively under the administration of the parliament rather than the executive. That's not the case with the federal parliament. I am aware of those issues and I'm aware of the issues that arose with respect to the 2016 raid, because there was material and data held by parts of the Department of Finance rather than the Department of Parliamentary Services or the Department of the Senate. Again, I'll correct the record. I don't think I've received any correspondents from the Department of Finance since that resolution was passed by the Senate.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. It would be good if you could take that on notice.</p>	Hansard pp 6–7	8/04/2019
2	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Senate Estimates Procedures	<p>Senator KITCHING: The other issue I would like to raise with you is that on Friday we sent an email asking for Mr Healy—in fact, I'll read you the email: 'Can you please request the department ensures and confirms that all senior executives, including all assistant secretaries, the chief of staff and, in particular, Michael Healy are in attendance on Monday'. The secretariat of this committee then phoned and there was no response. Not even: 'No. They're not going to attend'. So, why was that? Why didn't you respond?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Before you answer, I think Senator Kitching might benefit if you have a quick chat with the secretariat about that correspondence before the response.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Just one moment. Can we just confirm the department did phone back and say they weren't planning on responding.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: The response indicated that we were providing the staff that had been previously notified would be attending.</p>	Hansard p. 17	8/04/2019

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				<p>Senator KITCHING: That's not what I'm asking you, Mr Stefanic. We sent an email, the secretariat then followed up, and someone in your department or your office said, 'Actually, we're not planning on responding'. You don't get to say that. You get to say, 'No, we're not coming', or 'Yes', or 'This person is going to be acting'. You don't get to say, 'I'm not planning to respond to the request'. So I would like to know what happened there.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: We didn't respond to you directly. We were communicating directly with the secretariat.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So now your evidence is different from what you just said a few minutes ago?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: No. What I mentioned to you was what was related back to the secretariat.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You weren't planning on responding—is that how you're going to treat estimates? You're just not going to respond if it doesn't suit you?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: We communicated through the secretariat.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: And the Secretariat have just confirmed that in fact they were told that you weren't planning on responding. You might like to check with your office about who said that and maybe let us know. Illuminate us.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: I'll take that on notice.</p>		
3	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Security Upgrade - Lendlease contract commencement	<p>Senator KITCHING: Did you have any clause in the contract with Lendlease that required them to inform you of any issues that might be holding up the building works or that might go to performance of the contract? I imagine you might have in that sort of contract. Did Lendlease actually ever inform you of any issues?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: We were aware of performance issues with Steelvision a little before we were formally told about the issues with supplier payments—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: When?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: but it wasn't that much earlier.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Are we talking a month? Two months?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Do you think someone sitting behind you might know?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: If Ms Knight has the information available to her—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: The reason, Mr Stefanic, I would like an org chart is that it is then very clear as to the setting out of your department. You have not furnished me with one, and I can't believe that you said, I think, in your opening statement that you've got a thousand staff and no-one could update an org chart to make it current. Who's looking after building works now? Ms Saunders? Or Ms Knight?</p> <p>Ms Knight: Yes, Fiona Knight, acting first assistant secretary.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: When did you become aware? Was it a month before you were formally told by Lendlease or it was it two months before?</p> <p>Ms Knight: I'm just having a look through the brief.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Sure, thank you.</p> <p>Ms Knight: The information I've got is that in June 2018 DPS became aware that the deadline would not be achieved with Steelvision.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: But that's the date Mr Stefanic said you were formally told.</p>	Hansard, pp. 18–19	8/04/2019

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				<p>Mr Stefanic: During the break, I'll endeavour to get that information for you.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you.</p>		
4	DPS	Spender, Duncan	Catering	<p>Senator SPENDER: I'm wondering why you don't make money out of walking tours, particularly in non-sitting periods. I'm sure that there's more than a museum's worth of art in this place. I don't see why you couldn't make substantial money, in net terms, out of that.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: We offer a free tour to most visitors who come to Parliament House. There are options for paid tours where people can get an additional, behind-the-scenes look at the building. It isn't what you'd call a money spinner; it is based more around a cost-recovery initiative. We have been exploring a few other possibilities. Through Cultural Attractions of Australia, we are launching what is essentially a tour with a dining package rolled into it, which is tailored as a premium package. We'll see how strong the demand is for it. You raise a good point, and it's a relatively new area we're looking at at the moment.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: Where would the dining be?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: The dining venue? I'm not sure off the top of my head. I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: Presumably it could be the members and senators' dining room.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: Potentially, yes.</p>	Hansard, p. 19	8/04/2019
5	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Security Upgrade - Clayton Utz and Legal Costs	<p>Senator KITCHING: On the professional services provided by Clayton Utz, are you able to provide the signed retainer agreements with Clayton Utz together with the copy—the taxing documents, the copies of all the tax invoices for professional fees and disbursements, including fee earner hourly rates?</p> <p>Ms Knight: I'll have to take that on notice, sorry.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You'll take on notice to get those documents?</p> <p>Ms Knight: If they're available, yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: If you're not getting and asking for the hourly fees and the disbursements from Clayton Utz, I would suggest that you are able to do that and that I would be doing that.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: Are you asking for the actual billing documents?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: They can be redacted, but I think it would be instructive to see—</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: You want to see the amounts—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I want to see the amounts.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: of hours, costs and disbursements?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes. For example, it occurs to me that probably the department has gone back to Clayton Utz to get legal services, because this project has not been run—</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: I would hope the department is seeking legal advice, given the number of issues we've had.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes, I'm not questioning the getting of the legal advice. What I'm asking is: what kind of advice has been provided and in what areas of Clayton Utz is advice being sought?</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: So, what sorts of internal areas and expertise areas?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes—and I'd like the fees and disbursements.</p> <p>The PRESIDENT: Can I just say that, to the extent that it is appropriate—is that specific enough for officials? I don't think there should necessarily be names of people or copies of the advice, for example. You're just after the costs, disbursements and—I'm just trying to narrow it down. The question is to give</p>	Hansard, pp. 24-25	

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				<p>you as much as you're after?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes. I'd also like the total cost. Is that more than you were budgeting for, for example? What's the hourly rate of the fee earners? I'm not saying this is fair, but tax lawyers offer earn more than other lawyers within a firm. So, what's their charge-out rate? I'd like to know that. Construction lawyers will earn a particular hourly rate.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: We'll provide whatever information we can</p>		
6	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Staffing	<p>Senator KITCHING: Mr Stefanic, can I just go back briefly to the organisational chart and the recent changes. The First Assistant Secretary, Building and Security Division; the Assistant Secretary, Security Branch; and the Assistant Secretary, Capital Works Branch—are they the ones who've moved, or have there been changes in those—</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: Those positions now report directly to the deputy secretary—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: To Ms Saunders.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: Ms Saunders rather than to me. Structurally, the Information Services Division, the Parliamentary Library staff and the Design Integrity and Archives Unit continue to report directly to me.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Were they offered a section 37 incentive to retire?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: Which staff are you talking about?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Those three positions; what we've just discussed. There are people on personal leave. The people occupying those positions, have they been offered a section 37?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: You don't know? Ms Saunders doesn't know?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: I'd need to look up the reference to the legislation you're referring to.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: But wouldn't Ms Saunders know? Ms Saunders?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: I'll need to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Do you think you can come back quickly?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: If you're taking that on notice and endeavouring to answer it quickly, is it because they're under investigation? And I'd like to know what the redundancy cost is.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: There are no senior executive officers in the department under investigation.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What about the redundancy costs?</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: There are certainly no redundancy costs in relation to two of the staff you've mentioned, because they're still on our staff. There is one person, that has left the department, who has retired.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's Mr Cooper.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: Mr Cooper. And I will endeavour to get back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Okay. And I'd like to know the quantum.</p> <p>Mr Stefanic: Yes.</p>	Hansard, p. 25	8/04/2019
7	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Digital Strategy Upgrade— publication	<p>Senator KITCHING: I note you have a digital strategy document, which I don't think is available online, which is a little ironic. But it is available in hard copy. How much did this cost to produce?</p> <p>Mr Stinziani: Senator, it is available online. It's on the APH website. I can take on notice the exact cost for the production of the physical copies.</p>	Hansard, p. 27	8/04/2019

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				<p>Senator KITCHING: Yes, I'd like to know how many you made, what it cost, how much it cost to produce.</p> <p>Mr Stinziani: Certainly.</p>		
8	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Comcare improvement notice	<p>Senator KITCHING: On how many occasions in the past has Comcare issued a formal sanction under the Commonwealth Work Health and Safety Act, including, but not limited to, improvement notices and prohibition notices requiring or preventing the department from doing something which could have been prevented had the department demonstrated acceptable management?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: We'll take that on notice.</p>	Hansard, p. 30	8/04/2019
9	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Budget Measure – Auxiliary Power	<p>(a) How does the auxiliary power system currently work?</p> <p>(b) What is the nature of the replacement, for example, is it a new generator or something like that, or does it involve wiring and that sort of thing as well?</p>	Written	18/04/2019
10	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Budget Measure – Mobile Telephone Antenna	<p>(a) How is mobile telephone reception currently provided (or not provided, as may be more accurate in some parts of the building), for example, does the Department of Parliamentary Services own the infrastructure, or is it owned by telecommunications companies?</p> <p>(b) If it is owned by the Department of Parliamentary Services, why does this arrangement exist instead of having telecommunications companies provide the infrastructure?</p> <p>(c) How are telecommunications companies proposed to be involved in the upgrade works?</p> <p>(d) What are the likely challenges to be overcome in providing improved reception?</p> <p>(e) Why is there no mention of the specifics of this measure in the portfolio budget statement for the Department of Parliamentary Services, only the figure?</p> <p>(f) Is it because this government's approach to the budget is so chaotic that it knew the size of the appropriation but not what it was for?</p>	Written	18/04/2019
11	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Budget Measure - Auxiliary Power and Mobile Telephone Antenna	<p>With reference to the capital funding measure on page 186 of 2019-20 Budget Paper No. 2 applicable to the Department of Parliamentary Services, related to replacement of the auxiliary power system and to upgrade the mobile telephone antenna:</p> <p>(a) Noting the overall amount of \$35.2 million will be provided over five years, can the split between capital funding and operating funding (\$3.4 million over four years) be explained?</p> <p>(b) How was this figure arrived at?</p> <p>(c) When did the Department of Parliamentary Services make its bid for funding?</p> <p>(d) Is this the first time it has bid for funding for these items?</p> <p>(e) If not, on what other occasions has this bid been submitted?</p> <p>(f) Were any bids for other projects submitted and rejected?</p>	Written	18/04/2019

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				(i) If so, for what projects? (g) What is the breakdown of the overall figure between the auxiliary power system works and the mobile telephone antenna works?		
12	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Emergency Evacuation Drills at Parliament House	With reference to the Department of Parliamentary Services' answer to question 30 from Additional Estimates 2018-19: (a) Can the Department advise the recommended frequency of evacuation drills at Parliament House? (b) Can the Department explain why it has not conducted a full evacuation drill at Parliament House, during a sitting week (maximum attendance of building occupants) since October 2012?	Written	18/04/2019
13	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Employment of Former Defence Force Personnel	(a) Does the Department of Parliamentary Services have any strategies in place to recruit returned defence force personnel? (i) If not, has this ever been considered? (b) Is the Department of Parliamentary Services aware of how many of its 900 staff might have previously served in the Defence Force? (c) Is the Department of Parliamentary Services aware of any of its 900 staff currently active in the Army, Navy or Air Force Reserve? (i) If so, how many? (d) How many staff have taken leave for the purposes of Defence Force service in the 2018-19 financial year?	Written	18/04/2019
14	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Employment of Indigenous Staff	With reference to 2018-19 additional estimates question on notice 42 from Senator Dodson: (a) Noting the commitment of the Department of Parliamentary Services to meeting the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy employment target of 2.5 per cent, is the Department of Parliamentary Services meeting this target? (b) Why, according to the table on page 2 of the answer to the question on notice, are there apparently no First Nations people employed at executive level in the Department of Parliamentary Services? (i) Has this been identified as an area for improvement? (ii) If not, why not? (iii) Is the Department aware of the public service-wide average of Indigenous staff at EL1 level and above, including the Senior Executive Service and if so, what is it? (iv) How might this be improved within the Department of Parliamentary Services? (c) Noting the Reconciliation Action Plan of which the Department of Parliamentary Services is part was for 2016-2018, has this plan now been renewed? (d) If not, when will it be renewed?	Written	18/04/2019

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15	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Faults with newly installed security pass swipe system	(a) How long is it since the new, white swipe card readers were installed to replace the HID system and other readers? (b) What factors drove the choice of the new system? (c) What did it cost? (d) What testing was carried out on the readers to determine their effectiveness prior to their installation? (e) What testing has been carried out on the readers to determine their effectiveness since their installation? (f) Has the Department of Parliamentary Services been satisfied with the performance of the swipe card readers? (g) Has the Department of Parliamentary Services received any complaints about the performance of the swipe card readers? (h) Are some of the swipe card readers not especially good at reading swipe cards?	Written	18/04/2019
16	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Health and Recreation Centre	With reference to the answer provided to question on notice 59 at the 2018-19 budget estimates: (a) Has there been any noticeable increase or decrease in the number of members of the Health and Recreation Centre? (b) What about in the number of casual visits? (c) How many extra staff have been engaged to conduct this trial? (d) Are existing staff working extended hours? (e) When is the trial scheduled to conclude? (f) Have any benchmarks been set to determine whether the extended hours are a success or failure? (i) If so, what are they? (ii) If not, on what basis will the Department of Parliamentary Services determine whether to permanently extend the hours of operation?	Written	18/04/2019
17	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Location of Staff	(a) Can the Department of Parliamentary Services advise the current number of staff located in the Minter Ellison Building? (b) When did the Department of Parliamentary Services first lease premises in this building? (c) How has this number changed since that time, since the 2018-19 budget estimates and since the 2018-19 additional estimates? (d) What functions do these staff perform? (e) Are any departmental staff located at locations other than Parliament House and the Minter Ellison building? (i) If so, where?	Written	18/04/2019
18	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Main Entrance Works Update	(a) The main entrance works have recently been split into two work elements. The first is Work Element 2 (WE2)—which is under construction and is approximately 75% complete. The second is Work Element 6 (WE6) which is scheduled to commence on 2 September 2019. (b) The WE2 works involves the establishment of a second entry point to enhance the integrity of the screening process by reducing queues and pressure on the main public entrance. This entails the	Written	18/04/2019

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				design and construction of new accommodation for APH occupants affected by works on the alternative entrance. The WE6 works comprises ballistic and blast treatment to the Main Ceremonial Entrance doors and surrounds. (c) 14 May 2018. (d) The original program forecast a completion date of 22 June 2018. (e) The WE2 is scheduled for completion by 31 October 2019 and WE6 by 13 March 2020.		
19	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Minter Ellison Building – Evidence	With reference to page 3 of the answer to the 2018-19 additional estimates question on notice 16 from Senator Bilyk, a page that is titled "EVIDENCE": (a) Should this page have been included in the answer, given it appears to contain a number of unfinished statements and references? (a) Why can the Department of Parliamentary Services not get a breakdown of costs from the contractor ATA and can only give the cost of the quote? (b) If a breakdown of costs cannot be provided, how does the Department of Parliamentary Services know it received value for money, or even what it asked for? (c) What ongoing works are occurring in the training room? (d) Has a quote been provided? (e) With reference to the "potential reporting risk" flagged in the "MISCELLANEOUS ITEM" section, is the Department of Parliamentary Services saying that it cannot account for all of its furniture, fixtures or fittings? (f) Who are "Alex and Alex"? (g) How is the development of the "proposed strategy" going? (h) When will the committee get to see it? (i) Can the Department of Parliamentary Services confirm there were no additional furniture, fixtures or fittings purchased or installed in calendar year 2018, or does it not know? (j) What is the total amount spent at the Minter Ellison Building since the Department of Parliamentary Services first leased space there?	Written	18/04/2019
20	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Minter Ellison Building – Minor Upgrades	Noting the answer to the 2018-19 additional estimates question on notice 16 from Senator Bilyk, which states "minor upgrades" in the Minter Ellison building totalled \$39,878.30: (a) Is \$39,878.30 worth of upgrades really "minor works"? (b) Why is a breakdown of costs not available?	Written	18/04/2019
21	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Monies owed to APH Catering	In relation to monies owed to APH Catering: (a) As at 5 April 2019, how much was owed on account to APH Catering? (b) How many outstanding debts are: (i) Less than \$5,000? (ii) Between \$5,000 and \$10,000 dollars? (iii) Between \$10,000 and \$20,000 dollars? (iv) Between \$20,000 and \$50,000 dollars? (v) Over \$50,000 dollars? (c) Are there any outstanding debts to the Liberal Party of Australia?	Written	18/04/2019

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				(d) Are there any outstanding debts to the National Party? (e) How many functions were hosted in the building in budget week by the Liberal and National parties or by senators and members affiliated to those parties, where an invoice has been raised by APH catering? (f) Have all functions been paid for in full? (g) Do hirers have to pay a deposit, upfront in full or following the event?		
22	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Security and Building Works Update	Please provide an update on the progress of security works other than those related to the House and Senate entrances: (a) How many projects are currently underway? (b) Which ones are classed as “security works” and which as “building works”? (c) When did each of these projects commence? (d) What was the original date for scheduled completion? (e) What is the current date for scheduled completion?	Written	18/04/2019
23	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Security Branch Resourcing	(a) What is the current number of staff in the Parliamentary Security Service? (b) Does this include only uniformed personnel, or also office staff in the Security Branch? (i) If both, what is the breakdown? (c) What is the optimal number of security personnel? (d) If there is a shortfall, how is this to be addressed? (e) On what basis is the Department of Parliamentary Services recruiting for the Parliamentary Security Service: on an as required or ad hoc basis, or are there regular recruiting calls scheduled in? (f) When will the Department of Parliamentary Services undertake its next recruitment drive? (g) How many staff were employed in the most recent induction? (h) What is the breakdown in experience within the service: (i) Between 0 and 1 years? (ii) Between 1 and 2 years? (iii) Between 2 and 5 years? (iv) Between 5 and 10 years? (v) Between 10 and 20 years? (vi) Over 20 years? (i) Are there any targets within recruiting to the Parliamentary Security Service to take into account: (i) Employment of First Nations people? (ii) Employment of people from diverse cultural backgrounds? (iii) Employment of returned defence force personnel	Written	18/04/2019
24	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Spend to Control Moths, Rodents and Other Undesirables	With reference to the article Rats in House, 07 Apr 2019, Sunday Herald Sun, Melbourne, by Josh Fagan: (a) In the past 3 years, what types of pests – insects and rodents – have been identified as requiring control action? (b) How much has been expended for pest control in the last 3 financial years and this financial year to date?	Written	18/04/2019

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				(c) Is pest control undertaken internally or by external parties? (d) What is the regularity of spraying, baiting, etc and other preventative programs? (e) Can the Department advise if pests in Parliament House have directly caused any WHS injuries? (f) In the past 3 years, has the Department had to replace any equipment, furniture and/or supplies because of pest infestation? (g) What about art work? Professional restoration? (i) If yes – at what cost? (h) How have reductions in cleaning affected the preponderance of moths, rodents and other undesirables, for example, bins not being emptied over a weekend and reductions in vacuuming? (i) Would the pest control be cheaper if the building was just cleaned more regularly? (j) Will the Cabinet Room be included in the program of works to control moths, rodents and other undesirables? (k) What percentage of the work will be undertaken in the Cabinet Suite? (l) What about the Prime Minister's office?		
25	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Staff Travel	With reference to the breakdown of staff travel contained in the answer to question on notice 17 from Senator Bilyk from the 2018-19 additional estimates: (a) Of the total cost of \$661,892 –how much of this relates to travel by staff in support of parliamentary committee hearings, for example Hansard and broadcasting? (b) Is international travel costing \$100,735 for twelve trips excessive? (c) Noting that flights are the biggest component of these costs at \$69,287 – why are the flights so expensive? (d) With reference to the April 2018 trip to Ottawa, Montebello and Washington: (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (e) With reference to the April 2018 trip to Ottawa and Montebello: (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (f) With reference to the June 2018 trip to Ottawa, Washington and London: (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (g) With reference to the April 2018 trip to Wellington: (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (h) With reference to the July 2018 trip to Vietnam, Thailand and Brunei:	Written	18/04/2019

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (iv) Following changes to the law in Brunei relating to homosexuality, will the Department of Parliamentary Services be reconsidering any trips to Brunei in future? (i) With reference to the July 2018 trip to London: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (j) With reference to the August 2018 trip to Wellington: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (k) With reference to the first October-November 2018 trip to Tokyo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (l) With reference to the second October-November 2018 trip to Tokyo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (m) With reference to the November 2018 trip to Wellington: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (n) With reference to the November 2018 trip to Seoul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (o) With reference to the Singapore 2018 trip to Wellington: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who undertook the trip? (ii) What was the purpose of the trip? (iii) Who approved the trip? (iv) The breakdown states the accommodation was included in the course fee, but there is no mention of the course fee despite course fees in other cases being included in “other”, why is this? (v) What was the course fee? 		
26	DPS	Kitching, Kimberley	Strategic Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What is the current status of the Strategic Accommodation Review? (b) Can senators expect any public statement of proposals being advanced, or any timeline? 	Written	18/04/2019

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019 – 2020
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			Review – General	(c) Has any funding been sought for specific projects?		
27	Parliamentary Service Commissioner	Kitching, Kimberley	Meetings with the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives	<p>According to the Parliament House website: The Parliamentary Service Commissioner is a statutory officer appointed under the Parliamentary Service Act by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament. The Commissioners functions are to advise the Presiding Officers on the management policies and practices of the Parliamentary Service and, at the request of the Presiding Officers, to inquire into and report on other matters relating to the Parliamentary Service.</p> <p>(a) On how many occasions has the Parliamentary Service Commissioner met with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives since the 2018-19 additional estimates hearings in February?</p> <p>(b) Has the Parliamentary Service Commissioner met with the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services, the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives or any other officers of the Parliament in the same period?</p> <p>(c) Does the Parliamentary Service Commissioner anticipate a post-election meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, regardless of any election result, once the two chambers have met to elect the presiding officers for the 46th Parliament (in the case of the Senate, after 1 July 2019)?</p> <p>(d) Have such meetings been undertaken in the past?</p>	Written	18/04/2019
28	Parliamentary Service Commissioner	Kitching, Kimberley	Reports provided	<p>According to the Parliament House website: The Parliamentary Service Commissioner is a statutory officer appointed under the Parliamentary Service Act by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament. The Commissioners functions are to advise the Presiding Officers on the management policies and practices of the Parliamentary Service and, at the request of the Presiding Officers, to inquire into and report on other matters relating to the Parliamentary Service.</p> <p>(a) How many reports has the Parliamentary Service Commissioner been asked to prepare any reports, or completed any reports, since the 2018-19 additional estimates hearings in February?</p> <p>(b) If so, what is the nature of the reports?</p> <p>(c) When were they commissioned?</p> <p>(d) When were they completed?</p> <p>(e) What recommendations has the Parliamentary Service Commissioner made with respect to the operation of the Parliament since the since the 2018-19 additional estimates hearings in February?</p>	Written	18/04/2019
29	Parliamentary Service Commissioner	Kitching, Kimberley	Appointment of Deputy Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services	<p>(a) Was the Parliamentary Service Commissioner consulted on the decision to appoint a deputy secretary in the Department of Parliamentary Services?</p> <p>(b) If so, what feedback was provided?</p> <p>(c) If not, should the Parliamentary Service Commissioner have been consulted?</p> <p>(d) Has the Parliamentary Service Commissioner had any discussions with the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services concerning changes in the SES structure of the department?</p>	Written	18/04/2019
30	Parliamentary Service Commissioner	Kitching, Kimberley	Annual Reports	<p>(a) What boards, committees or councils does the Parliamentary Service Commissioner sit on in that capacity?</p> <p>(b) On how many occasions have they met since the 2018-19 budget estimates?</p>	Written	18/04/2019