

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Committee Inquiries Question on Notice
Senate Standing Committees on Finance and Public Administration
Inquiry into the Management and Assurance of Integrity by Consulting Services
(Consulting Services)

IQ23-000058

Division/Agency: DIV - Finance and Business Services

Hansard Reference: Written, (23 March 2023)

Topic: Big 7 Firms

Senator Barbara Pocock asked:

The following questions relate to the below consulting/accounting firms that will be referred to as the “Big 7.” If answering in the affirmative to any of the below questions, specify which of the Big 7 firms you are referring to.

- Deloitte
- EY
- KPMG
- PwC
- McKinsey
- Boston Consulting
- Accenture

1. Are any former partners of each of the Big 7 employed at [agency] ?
2. Are any of these former partners receiving ongoing payments from their former association with these firms, including as part of any retirement plans?
3. Has [agency] established if these ongoing payments are tied to the financial performance these firms?
4. Are any former partners of each of the Big 7 appointed to any boards or sub-committees of [agency]?
5. Are any of these former partners receiving ongoing payments from their former association with these firms, including as part of any retirement plans?
6. Has [agency] established if these ongoing payments are tied to the financial performance these firms?
7. Are any former partners of the Big 7 involved in any policy consultation committees, panels or other formal processes at [agency]?
8. Are any of these former partners receiving ongoing payments from their former association with these firms, including as part of any retirement plans?
9. Has [agency] established if these ongoing payments are tied to the financial performance these firms?

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Answer

1. Having made reasonable enquiries, as at 14 April 2023, , the department is not aware of any employee who is a former partner of a “Big 7” firm. The department’s Secretary, who commenced on the 11 July 2022, was a former partner at EY Port Jackson Partners from 9 May 2022 to 8 July 2022. The Secretary is not a departmental employee for the purpose of the *Public Service Act*, rather appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
2. No.
3. Not applicable, refer to response to question 2.
4. Having made reasonable enquiries, the department is aware of one member of a departmental committee who is a former partner of a “Big 7” firm.
5. The department does not maintain a central register of this information
6. Not applicable, refer to response to question 5.
7. The department does not maintain a central register of this information.
8. No.
9. Not applicable, refer to response to question 8.