

The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Industry, Science and Resources

TOPIC: Expenditure on consultancy services

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Written)

QUESTION No.: 1

1. Will [agency] spend less on consultancy services in the 2022-23 FY than in the 2021-22 FY?
2. What is [agency] predicted spend on consultancy services in the 2022-23 FY?
3. What did [agency] spend on consultancy services in the 2021-22 FY?
4. How much has [agency] spent on consultancy services to date in the 2022-23 FY?

ANSWER

1. The department anticipates that it will spend less on consultancy services in the 2022-23 FY than it did in the 2021-22 FY.
2. The department's predicted spend on consultancy services for the 2022-23 FY is between \$14 million to \$19 million.
3. The department spent \$41.7 million on consultancy services in the 2021-22 FY.
4. The department has spent \$9.7 million on consultancy services in the 2022-23 financial year to date (as at 28 Feb 2023).

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TOPIC: Reports commissioned from consultants

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Written)

QUESTION No.: 2

How many reports did [agency] commission from consultants in the last three financial years: 2019-2020 – 2021-2022?

- a. Of any reports commissioned in the last three financial years, how many have been publicly released (in whole or in part)?

ANSWER

For financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22, the department commissioned 7 reports. All were publicly released.

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TOPIC: Consultancy contracts

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Written)

QUESTION No.: 3

1. Has [agency] determined in the last ten years that a consulting firm has not fulfilled their contract? If yes, list all occurrences, including the name of the consulting firm, name of project, date of contract and reason consulting firm did not fulfill the contract.
2. Has [agency] terminated any consultancy contract and why in the last ten years?
3. Have any contracts been the subject of dispute or legal action in the last ten years?

ANSWER

1. There have been no consultancies that have not fulfilled their contract in the last 10 years.
2. Two contracts have been terminated in the last 10 years.
 - a. **CN3312929** - the contract was terminated by mutual agreement as provision of services was unable to proceed as agreed.
 - b. **CN3481195** – consultancy related to a legal matter that required no further instructions.
3. Detailed information at this level is not readily available. To provide a response to this question would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.