Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Management and Assurance of Integrity by Consulting Services

Department: Department of the Treasury

Topic: Consultation of the four short-term measures

Reference: Spoken

Senator: Deborah O'Neill

Question:

Senator O'NEILL: The four pieces that you're referring to are the Tax Practitioners Board reforms, information-sharing, whistleblower protections, and reform of promoter penalty laws.

Ms Berger-Thomson: That's correct.

Senator O'NEILL: How many consultations did you undertake? Did you say you had 16 submissions?

Ms Berger-Thomson: Yes, 16 submissions. I'd have to take on notice the exact number of round tables and discussions, but certainly the team has been reaching out and liaising with all relevant stakeholders.

Senator O'NEILL: Are the relevant stakeholders and participants in the consultations and the round tables different from the 16 submitters?

Ms Berger-Thomson: I'd have to take that on notice.

Answer:

In relation to the 'Response to PwC measures' that were released for exposure draft consultation from 20 September – 4 October 2023, Treasury engaged in one roundtable discussion with 12 entities from a pre-existing forum of stakeholders. Members from across the tax, accounting and law professions (both government and non-government) participated.

In addition, Treasury engaged in two further stakeholder discussions – one of these with one stakeholder, and the other with representatives from three different stakeholders.

In total, Treasury has now received 19 written submissions, including 7 from stakeholders that attended a consultation discussion.