

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Functional Efficiency Review

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: 221

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) When will the Functional Efficiency Review that included the DTO/DTA be released?
- b) What were the review's key recommendations?
- c) Is the DTA currently undertaking actions based on that report?
- d) Has the review been considered by cabinet? When will it be reviewed?
- e) How does the government justify the restructure of an entire agency without the review even going to cabinet or being made public?
- f) Did Dr Alexander see the Functional Efficiency Review?
- g) Did he brief the then-CEO on it?
- h) Has he seen the recommendations of the Functional Efficiency Review?
- i) Were any other reviews of the then DTO conducted before the restructure was announced? Can we be provided with those reviews?

Answer:

- a) The Functional and Efficiency Review (the Review) is being considered by the Government. Its release is a matter for the Government.
- b) The Review was commissioned for the purpose of Cabinet consideration. It is longstanding practice not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet.

- c) No.
- d) The Review is being considered by the Government. It is longstanding practice not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet.
- e) The Review, led by Mr David Thodey, was a review of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and was not a specific review of the Digital Transformation Office (DTO). The reforms to the structure and functions of the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) were informed by a range of advice and were not based solely on the Review.
- f) Mr Alexander saw a draft of the Review and attended a briefing in a non-DTA related role while he worked at the Treasury.
- g) Before Mr Alexander commenced at the DTO he broadly discussed the Review with the then-CEO but did not provide a formal brief.
- h) Mr Alexander saw a draft of the Review and attended a briefing in a non-DTA related role while he worked at the Treasury.
- i) No other reviews of the DTO were conducted, however, prior to the announcement of the changes to the agency, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided advice to the Government on the digital transformation agenda.