Question No: 292

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Written (29 June 2021)

Topic: NBN Co- Delivery partner audits since 2010

Senator Anthony Sheldon asked:
At Budget Estimates, Mr Rue "We haven't changed the model. The model has existed since 2010 when NBN was first created."

Mr Rue also said that the NBN has the right to audit its delivery partners if concerns are raised by subcontractors.

a) Please advise how many delivery partners the NBN has audited since 2010.
b) Please advise whether the NBN is able to audit Primes, and if so, how many the NBN has audited since 2010.
c) Please advise what the nature of the concerns which led to the audits were (eg. Payment issues, clawbacks, unfair contract terms, sham contracting, terminations, etc.)
d) Please advise the findings of the audits referred to in the above questions.
e) Please advise the outcomes of the audits referred to in the above questions, including whether the delivery partners or primes which were subject to adverse findings by the audits are still used by the NBN.

Answer:

Within NBN Co's systems "Audits" refer to a wide range of activities spanning across our Delivery Partners including but not limited to:

- Commercial contractual compliance which NBN determines annually, determined by risk, in consultation with senior NBN management, and complementing NBN's other assurance processes across Delivery Partners
- Operational performance and governance as referenced in the Additional Estimates 2020-21 hearing Committee Question Number 194
- Monthly Payment Assurance processes, as referenced in the Additional Estimates 2020-21 hearing Committee Question Number 190

With a Delivery Partner pool of over 40 partners and over 10 years of weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly records - the information requested is not recorded in NBN Co systems in the format the question requested. Compiling the above would need to be manually performed requiring a significant allocation of internal resources and a significant period of time, well outside the given time frame to respond to this question.