

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: ICT - Expenditure

Question reference number: HS 29

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What is the department's annual IT expenditure by cost centre?
- b) What is the IT staff cost and numbers by cost centre?
- c) How many IT contractors and consultants are engaged by value and number by cost centre?
- d) Has DHS provided data to the Department of Finance led audit of ICT spending over the past three years? Please table the data.
- e) Has DHS made recommendations to the Department of Finance about improvements to DHS ICT spend?
- f) What areas of improvement have been identified by DHS?

Answer:

- a) to c) To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- d) Yes, the department has provided data to the Department of Finance led audit of ICT spending. The data provided is commercial in confidence and includes information in relation to cyber security. The release of this data presents a risk to the probity of future departmental tender processes and exposes the department to potential for increased costs.
- e) The audit was predominately statistical in nature and as such there were no recommendations made to the Department of Finance regarding DHS ICT spend.
- f) There were no improvements identified by DHS specifically as a result of this audit. DHS has an ongoing focus on identifying strategies to reduce the cost of departmental expenditure including ICT expenses.