

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 12

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 14/03/2017

Topic: Waste

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Given that government and opposition politicians have all raised concerns over time and had policies on government waste:

1. Is there a central government authority responsible for the elimination of waste?
2. If so
 - (a) Is there a government wide definition on the meaning of 'waste', and if so, what is that definition?
 - (b) How does this central government authority monitor and manage waste within the Department?
 - (c) Is there a central government mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste?
 - (d) How much Departmental waste was identified by the central government authority in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16?
3. If not:
 - (a) Is there a departmental definition on the meaning of 'waste', and if so, what is that definition?
 - (b) What are the Department's arrangements for monitoring and managing waste?
 - (c) Is there a central Departmental mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste?
 - (d) How much waste was identified by the Department in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16?
4. In either case:
 - (a) Can Departmental officers or contractors report waste anonymously?
 - (b) Are they afforded a protection if they do so?

Answer:

- 1-2. Refer to the Department of Finance's response to Additional Senate Estimates Question F128.
3. No.
4. Not Applicable.