

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Financial and Procurement Division

Question No: 293

Topic: Waste

Reference: Written

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

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.

3-4. The Treasury does not have arrangements for monitoring, managing and reporting waste.