

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency: ATO**

**Question: SBT 1778-1785**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Reference: written - 30 October 2015**

**Senator: Wong, Penny**

**Question:**

Since 1 January 2015:

1778. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced?

Please list them including:

- a) the date they were ordered
- b) the date they commenced
- c) the minister responsible
- d) the department responsible
- e) the nature of the review
- f) their terms of reference
- g) the scope of the review
- h) Who is conducting the review
- i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
- j) the expected report date
- k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
- l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

1779. For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June 2015, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
- b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
- c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
- d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
- e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
- f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
- g) If yes, for each, who selected them
- h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them:
  - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
  - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
  - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

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- iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department.
- v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

1780. Which reviews are on-going?

- a) Please list them.
- b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

1781. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.

1782. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.

1783. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.

1784. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

1785. What reviews are planned?

- a) When will each planned review be commenced?
- b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c) When will government respond to each review?
- d) Will the government release

**Answer:**

1778. One review has commenced since 1 January 2015 – The Functional and Efficiency Review of the ATO.

- a) Announced on 11 May 2015.
- b) Commenced on 13 July 2015.
- c) The Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Finance are responsible.
- d) The responsible Department is the Department of Finance.
- e) The aim of the review was to determine alignment of functions to government priorities, considering operational improvements and additional efficiencies including contestability of services acquired and provided.
- f) Terms of Reference are to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of all aspects of the ATO operations, programmes and administration.
- g) The scope of the review is to consider:
  - i. The role of the ATO and whether current functions performed within it align with the Government forward priorities and policy commitments
  - ii. Any barriers preventing the ATO from achieving its current intended outcomes and, where relevant, propose solutions to address these concerns
  - iii. The feasibility and efficiency of alternative approaches to address the Government's priorities including identifying the benefits, costs, risks and any

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other relevant considerations (including legal, regulatory and cultural considerations)

iv. The proposed transition path to implement preferred alternatives, including how performance could be managed, APS staffing, capability considerations and potential governance arrangements.

- h) The Independent Review Lead appointed by the ATO, under the Department of Finance's Contestability Review guidelines was Mr. Phil Gaetjens, supported by the NOUS Group as independent secretariat.
  - i) A small ATO project team managed the internal response to the review. The team comprised an SES Band 1 lead, 2 EL2s, 3 EL1s, 1 APS6 and 1 APS4. Some team members were not required for the entire review.
  - j) The review was finalised on 3 October 2015 with provision of the recommendations and report draft. The final report from the NOUS Group was completed 15 October 2015.
  - k) The costs were absorbed by the ATO.
  - l) The report is classified Protected - Cabinet in Confidence; as such it will not be made public.
1779. Yes, external expertise was engaged to assist with the Functional and Efficiency Review of the ATO as required by the Contestability Review Guidelines issued by the Department of Finance.
- a) Mr Phil Gaetjens as Independent Review Lead and the NOUS Group in the role of Independent Secretariat.
  - b) Managing Director – Mr. Tim Orton.
  - c) Costs associated with external involvement:
    - i. Phil Gaetjens contract: \$78,068.15
    - ii. NOUS contract: \$560,332.22
  - d) Nature of involvement: Conducting the Functional and Efficiency Review as per the Contestability Review guidelines.
  - e) No.
  - f) As part of the review the Independent Review Lead consulted with the Assistant Treasurer at the time and Minister for Finance as key stakeholders.
  - g) The Independent Review Lead and Independent Secretariat were engaged under normal ATO procurement processes.
  - h) No.
    - i. Not applicable.
    - ii. Not applicable.
    - iii. Not applicable.
    - iv. Not applicable.

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v. Not applicable.

1780. No reviews are ongoing.

- a) Not applicable.
- b) Not applicable.

1781. No.

1782. The Functional and Efficiency Review of the ATO has concluded.

1783. The Functional and Efficiency Review has concluded and the final report has been provided to the Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer; and the Minister for Finance.

1784. This is a matter for Government.

1785. This is a matter for Government.

- a) Not applicable.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.