

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000048

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 25

Also refer to Question Nos: SQ15-000047 and SQ15-000196

Terms of reference & Payment - FE review

Question

Ms Monkley: Just going to the firms that we approached in the lead-up to making our selection: we approached six different companies and asked them to provide a response on the basis of the terms of reference of the review. Firstly, we asked them to indicate whether they were interested in undertaking the review and then to provide us with a response. We did not receive responses from all of them. As we worked with the reviewer we actually narrowed the field and that led to the Nous Group.

Senator O'NEILL: And the terms of reference that you are referring to: are they able to be provided to the committee now?

Ms Paul: I do not think they are in the public gaze, actually, but can I take that on notice?

Senator O'NEILL: Because it would be—

Senator O'NEILL: Can I ask for the terms of reference?

Ms Paul: Sure—I will take it on notice.

Senator O'NEILL: And today, please.

Ms Paul: We will see what we can do.

...

Senator O'NEILL: How much has been allocated to this task? How much are Nous Group going to get?

Ms Paul: It is not so much a matter of allocating, because, as I say, the lead reviewer is working largely pro bono. We have already taken on notice the sort of payment arrangements for now, so we will put that on notice for you.

Answer

Information on the framework and conduct of Functional and Efficiency Reviews, as tabled with the Committee, is provided on the Australian Government Department of Finance Website. The Fact Sheet "*Efficiency through Contestability Programme – Functional and Efficiency Reviews*" can be located at the following URL:

<http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/fact-sheet-functional-and-efficiency-reviews.pdf>

The Terms of Reference underpinning the Functional and Efficiency Review of the Department of Education and Training specifically is a matter for Government, and not publicly available.

Contract details in relation to the NOUS Group support for the independent reviewer are available on Austender. Contract CN2908042 with a value of \$440,000 refers.