

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.3

Topic: Vacant office space across Government

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F38

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 28, 28 May 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you provide the committee with a list of surplus vacant space across government?

Senator Cormann: We might take that on notice.

Senator GALLAGHER: Also, please provide upcoming lease expiry dates. That would be useful, if you could take that on notice as well. In terms of the department of immigration, how to proceed from here with the tender is in a state of active consideration.

Ms Halton: Yes.

Answer:

As at 31 March 2015, the Commonwealth leased approximately 30,000 square metres of office space in the ACT surplus to its long term needs, which will progressively be filled in the course of Operation Tetris, as existing leases expire. In addition, several Commonwealth leases totalling over 50,000 square metres in the ACT are due to expire over the next three years.

The Government has initiated Operation Tetris with the aim of maximising value from Commonwealth property leases in the ACT, by making sure that any surplus vacant office space is promptly filled by agencies with relevant requirements and upcoming lease expiry dates.

Discussions are currently underway to fill the vacancies indentified in March and, when those details are finalised, an announcement will be made on plans to re-tenant these surplus premises.

Following the Government's announcement on 11 May 2015, the Department of Finance has commenced discussions with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection regarding its long-term accommodation needs.