

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.5

Topic: Ministerial Communications Interdepartmental Committee

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F52

Type of question: Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 46

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Mr Sheridan: Finance has a responsibility to provide the ministerial communications network. That includes mobile communications. The previous system was a 2G network solution, and in 2015, when the 2G network was closed down by suppliers, we were asked, in discussions between agencies, to see if we could provide an alternative solution, and we provided one at 'protected'.

Senator McALLISTER: What is the forum in which these discussions take place? If you have got responsibility for providing the ministerial communications network, is there a governance body that sits over the top of that?

Mr Sheridan: There is an interdepartmental committee, yes.

Senator McALLISTER: Who sits on that?

Mr Sheridan: I am not sure of the security classification of some of those things, and I would like to take that on notice if I could, please.

Answer:

The Inter-Departmental Committee that governs classified ICT is convened by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The composition of this committee is classified.