

**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:** 1/1.1  
**Topic:** Reduction of departmental expenses

**Senator:** Gallagher  
**Question reference number:** F55  
**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 48-49  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** ...I refer to BP 4, page 4 under the heading An efficient and responsive government is a paragraph that states:... departmental expenses ... as a proportion of total GGS expenses decreased from 8.5 per cent in 2007-08 to 7.1 per cent in 2015-16, and is expected to further decrease over the current budget and forward estimates period to 5.6 per cent by 2020-21.

Does that include the savings which, I think, you have taken on notice to come back to me on?

**Senator Cormann:** This reflects everything that is part of the budget forecast—anything reflected in the 2017-18 budget estimates.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** So it is the efficiency dividend?

**Senator Cormann:** Every policy position as at budget 2017-18 is reflected in that graph.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Can you identify the various cost centres which deliver this reduction in departmental expenses as a proportion of government expenses, identified—

**Senator Cormann:** We will have to take it on notice to assess how we can best assist you there. That is not a straightforward question.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** You will take that on notice?

**Senator Cormann:** Yes.

**Answer:**

Table 3.1, on page 144 of Budget Paper No. 4 provides a break-down of departmental expenses by agency over the forward estimates.