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

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Finance's Corporate Plan

Senator: Wong
Question reference number: F63
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 4

Question:

1. On page 8 of the Corporate Plan, what are the types of measures that Finance is implementing or has undertaken in order for it to be a "valued and trusted adviser to government on matters of policy and business, offering innovative and value for money solutions"?
2. Also on page 8, what is Finance doing in terms of "modern management practices", "being agile and responsive to government needs" and "engaging effectively and collaboratively with other entities and stakeholders" that is different to prior to this corporate plan?
3. On page 9, can the Department elaborate on what is meant by "expanding the reform of back-office IT systems"? Is this a new measure, or is this the Enterprise Resource Planning measure in the 2015-16 Budget?
4. Also on page 9, can the Department explain how the new building will "make operations more agile and better connected, and help organise people more flexibly in response to work pressures"? Further, in reference to the phrase "improved technology" – does this mean that Finance's IT systems are getting an upgrade?
5. In terms of measuring performance on an annual basis in relation to budget and financial advice on page 12, do these performance indicators line up with the performance indicators on page 29 of the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statement?
6. In terms of measuring performance for the "Transformation" purpose for 2016-17 and beyond on page 16, can the Department provide an update on the roll out of the public sector information grants system by June 2017?
7. Page 18 outlines actions required to address extreme or high operational risks in the government's non-defence property portfolio - what would these extreme or high operational risks be?

8. On page 18 there is an objective relating to GovCMS – a cloud based website hosting service. Can the Department explain what this is? What work is underway in relation to this? Which websites would be hosted in this service?
9. With reference to page 18 - what are the heritage objectives for the property portfolio? What are the heritage strategy commitments? Are these on track to be completed by 2017?
10. How will all the performance indicators be reported? In the annual report, the "annual performance statement", or both? What form will the Annual Performance Statement take? Will this be tabled in the Parliament? When will these annual performance statements be made public in terms of the reporting cycle?

Answer:

1. Performance measures that Finance is implementing or has undertaken in order for it to be a "valued and trusted adviser to government on matters of policy and business, offering innovative and value for money solutions" can be found in the Department's 2015-16 Corporate Plan on pages 12, 14, 16 and 18.

2. Over the corporate planning period, Finance is implementing a change programme to better manage and deliver its responsibilities for government which includes:
   - implementing a new contemporary operating model while also reviewing our organisational structure to reflect the new operating model; and
   - moving to a new building, adopting improved technology and organising staffing resources more flexibly.

3. This refers to the work that the Department of Finance is coordinating in implementing the Enterprise Resource Planning Systems measure in the 2015-16 Budget.

4. Co-locating Finance staff from 5 different locations into One Canberra Avenue, which offers more flexible work spaces, minimises the barriers for collaboration across the organisation and maximises the opportunities to deploy staff to meet key pressures and priorities.

   The Department is also in the process of refreshing desktop and office productivity tools which will contribute to better mobility, flexibility and collaboration in the workplace.

5. The annual performance measures identified on Page 12 of the 2015-16 Corporate Plan are informed by the performance indicators on page 29 of Finance's 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements.

6. The whole of Government grants information system, GrantConnect, is in the design and build phase. It is on schedule to commence a prioritised rollout of functions to Commonwealth entities and the public from Quarter 2 in 2016. The project will be completed by the end of June 2017.

7. As the portfolio includes both buildings and land, these extreme or high operational risks could include:

- Death or serious injury to workers (as defined under Section 7 or the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 or legislative compliance action including prosecution for a breach of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 or Regulations).
- Irreversible or significant damage is caused to a Commonwealth Heritage place, a National Heritage place or a property listed on the Finance Heritage Register.
- Irreversible and extensive or significant damage is caused to a Matter of National Environmental Significance or "the environment" under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (e.g: loss of a significant proportion of a threatened species or habitat).

8. govCMS is a whole of government cloud-based web content management and website hosting service. It is built on Drupal open source software to meet the needs of Australian Government entities and to encourage a 'create once and share with everyone' philosophy towards the development of extended functionality and complex features.

   Using govCMS, entities are able to create and manage website costs effectively, in compliance with Australian Government standards such as Security Accreditation, WCAG 2.0 Accessibility, AGLS Metadata, Archiving, and the Digital Service Standard. Entities can also leverage off shared service offerings such as DDoS Protection and Content Delivery networks at substantial financial cost savings.

   Following an open tender in 2014, Finance worked in partnership with Acquia to develop govCMS. The service was opened in March 2015. The service is growing iteratively according to the needs of member entities.

   govCMS is designed for Australian government entities - at the federal, state and local level - and can host any public facing websites containing content at the UNCLASSIFIED level. There are currently 48 websites live on the service from 23 separate entities.

   More information is available at www.govcms.gov.au

9. Finance's Heritage Strategy was published in 2015 and is available at http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/attachment-a-department-of-finance-heritage-strategy.pdf . The Heritage Strategy outlines Finance's commitments and objectives for the management of heritage assets.

   The objectives of the Heritage Strategy are to:
   - ensure compliance with the heritage requirements of the EPBC Act
   - ensure sustainable heritage outcomes are aligned with the Finance Asset Management Policy, including its outputs such as AM Plans and the Planned Works Programme
   - apply due diligence and effectively manage risk regarding heritage values of the Portfolio
   - fully integrate heritage considerations into portfolio management
   - establish and maintain relationships with departments, agencies, state government and non-government entities with heritage responsibilities

- build upon Finance's reputation as a leader in managing the heritage aspects of Commonwealth property.

There are 39 commitments in the Finance Heritage Strategy and Finance is on track to complete the commitments by 2017.

10. Performance indicators will be reported in annual performance statements which will be included in annual reports which are required to be tabled in Parliament by 30 October of each year. The first annual performance statements will be contained in the 2015-16 annual reports.