

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
18 October 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Efficiency dividend reallocation within portfolios

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F28

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Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: During your time as Minister for Finance, have you always agreed with those proposals when they have been put forward?

Senator Cormann: No, I am sure that I have not always agreed. It is not just my decision, incidentally. When you allocate new expenditure, obviously it is ultimately a matter for government as a whole, and you would not be surprised to hear me say that not every spending proposal would necessarily be agreed on by government. In relation to the efficiency dividend reallocation within portfolios specifically, I would have to take on notice what the actual track record is there.

Senator GALLAGHER: Could you also then take on notice whether an exemption has been sought for the national institutions in Canberra?

Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Portfolio Ministers may request that the impact of the efficiency dividend be reallocated between entities within their portfolio, subject to the approval of the Finance Minister. Since 2013 no reallocations of the efficiency dividend have been sought.

When the efficiency dividend was last revised in the 2016-17 Budget, no exemptions to the efficiency dividend were sought for the national institutions.