

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 18 October 2016

FINANCE PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Agency	Outcome/ Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
1	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Gallacher	Mix of permanent workforce and contractors - ASC	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Can you give us a baseline to work from? Twelve months ago, what was the mix of permanent workforce and contractors, so that we can get a picture of what is happening? I think what you are saying is that you are moving the workforce to contract.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: We can take that on notice, if you would like.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I am asking the question: is that because you were not there or you do not know?</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: I just do not happen to have that data in front of me, in terms of what the mix was a year ago.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have taken it on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: We would be happy to give you that information on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: No-one in the room knows that information?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have taken it on notice, Senator Gallacher.</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: Just to be specific on your question, I think your question was: are we shifting full-time labour to subcontractors? That is not what is happening. We had a strategy initially of around fifty-fifty in terms of percentages of our trades workforce—</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: The fundamental issue is that I wanted to know whether or not the workforce was reducing. You said that there is a move to contractors...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 5, 18 October 2016
2	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	Scheduling of job losses - ASC	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Chair, we are going to and fro in terms of job losses and their likely scheduling. Is there a document or a table that can be provided by ASC so that we do not have to revisit this? That might be useful in the context of this—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take that on notice just to see how we can assist...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 7, 18 October 2016
3	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	Vetting of media releases - ASC	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Is it arm's length with handcuffs? What does it mean in the context of media releases, for instance? Do you or your department vet any media releases before they go out?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We certainly are advised of any public statements that are proposed to be put out.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I take on notice the specific process. But let me just say to you that, as far as I am personally concerned, in relation to the announcement last week, for example, that ASC was proposing to put out a release, I was made aware of that release before it went out. I personally did not have any impact one way or the other on what was or was not in the press release. Whether there is any interaction between the department and ASC I am not aware.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 14, 18 October 2016
4	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	Alteration of ASC media releases	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Mr Edge, are you in a position to advise the committee whether any draft media releases sent to the department from the ASC, in the course of time, have been in any way altered as a result of suggestions or requests from the department to the ASC?</p> <p>Mr Edge: Over what period, Senator?</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Let us say since the calendar year 2014.</p> <p>Mr Edge: I would have to take that question on notice. Obviously that is an extended period of time. I could not answer that question.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 17, 18 October 2016

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					<p>Senator XENOPHON: Are you aware of any media statements, media releases, in draft form sent by the ASC to the department that have been altered in any way by the department?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: He has taken that on notice and we will provide an appropriate response on notice.</p>	
5	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	Objectives for the ASC	<p>Senator XENOPHON: ... My question to you, Minister, is: can you set out the objectives that you have set for the ASC? I am happy for you to take that on notice, or find out in the course of this hearing. Did that include ASC developing a plan to be the builder of the future submarines?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Again, the future submarine component of this is obviously a live procurement process managed by the Defence portfolio. In relation to the other parts of the question, I will take them on notice to ensure I provide the most expansive answer possible, while being mindful of the fact that you do not want me to talk for too long.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Minister, this is very important. You are required under the guidelines to set clear objectives for a government business enterprise; is that the case?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That is exactly right. We comply and we follow through on all of the relevant requirements. I have already indicated to you that I will give you as comprehensive and detailed an answer as I possibly can, on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: With all due respect, these sorts of communications that you are talking about happen between the minister and the board. I will provide the answer to your question, as you initially indicated I could, on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Mr Whiley might be able to tell us.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I have already taken the question on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 17-18, 18 October 2016
6	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	Unsolicited proposals to build ships - ASC	<p>Senator XENOPHON: ... I want to go to the issue of the supply ships. Mr Lamarre, these are questions that I asked back in March 2016. There was a question on notice of Defence, through the committee process, about unsolicited offers to Defence or Defence Materiel from ASC basically saying, 'We can build three for the price of two,' including a significant Australian build but with the first being built in South Korea. Senator Payne said that was an unsolicited proposal. The answer from Defence was that the unsolicited proposal from ASC was never formally submitted to Defence. Can you tell me, Mr Lamarre, given that there was an unsolicited proposal from ASC in respect to the supply ships, what actually happened to that? This is not a criticism of ASC. Presumably it said, 'We can build three for the price of two with a fairly significant Australian component with a second and third vessel'. Where does the proposal actually physically go? Who determines whether it goes to Defence or not?</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: I would have to take that question on notice. I was not here at the time that that procurement was considered.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Mr Lamarre, can you take on notice why it is that that unsolicited proposal, which on the face of it looked like a pretty good proposal, was never formally submitted to Defence? Could you please take that on notice? Again, it is not a criticism; I am just trying to find out.</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: Yes.</p> <p>...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 24-25, 18 October 2016

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					Senator XENOPHON: Respectfully—and perhaps you could take this on notice—were you advised, as shareholder minister, of the unsolicited proposal from ASC to build three supply ships effectively for the price of two? Could you please take that on notice and also whether you are aware of any discussions in respect of the Icebreaker, which is about half a billion dollars, which will be built in Romania, as I understand it, with very little or no Australian input in terms of Australian value-adding here?	
7	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	Contractual arrangements between ASC and ICCPM	Senator XENOPHON: ... My questions are as follows, and if they must be taken on notice, I understand that. What relationship existed between ASC and ICCPM prior to that point in terms of any contractual arrangements, consultancies and the like? Has the ASC ever had anyone on the board of ICCPM or vice versa? Could you advise about the interrelationship between the two? Is ICCPM undertaking this work? Senator Cormann: We may take that on notice, just to make sure we give you an accurate answer. Senator XENOPHON: Yes. I would invite you to see some of the comments on this. There is still an ongoing investigation by the ANAO in relation to Airservices Australia. I understand that it is a completely different entity. It is a significant issue—concerns about probity and the like. Also, on notice, could you provide details of how much is being paid to ICCPM in terms of consulting fees or contracts since that date, both in the 12 months prior to that announcement of 26 September 2014 and subsequent to that time? Mr Lamarre: Okay, no problem.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 27-28, 18 October 2016
8	Department of Finance	2/2.6	Whish-Wilson	Members contributing to military superannuation	Dr Helgeby: ... I cannot give you all of the comparable figures on the military side. Senator Cormann: We might take that on notice. Dr Helgeby: We will take that on notice.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 32, 18 October 2016
9	Future Fund Management Agency	1/1.2	Gallagher	Media policy for the Future Fund	Senator GALLAGHER: Is there a media policy that the Future Fund has that outlines who has authority to speak? Mr Neal: There is, yes. Senator GALLAGHER: Is that available for the committee or is it online? I have not checked. Mr Neal: I do not believe it is online. I cannot see any reason why we would not share that with you. Senator GALLAGHER: Thank you. There have been a number of articles over the last— Mr Neal: Senator, can I confirm something? We will provide that policy on notice? Senator GALLAGHER: Yes, if you could...	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 33, 18 October 2016
10	Department of Finance	1/1.2	McAllister	Valuation discount rates per annum	Senator McALLISTER: ... Can you just clarify whether it is a six per cent per annum discount rate or a 6½ per cent per annum discount rate? Dr Helgeby: I am sorry; I am just looking at the document. Senator Cormann: On economic assumptions, I am looking here at some discount rates. The rate for all schemes is six per cent per annum. Dr Helgeby: Can we take it on notice? We just need to check with the actuary. There may be a difference between the valuation of the discount rate that has been referred to here and the discount rate for all schemes that appears on the previous page.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 37-38, 18 October 2016

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11	Future Fund Management Agency	1/1.2	Gallagher	Expenses for the Chair of the Future Fund	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: I have a further one that goes to the Future Fund. On 9 September this year, the chair of the Future Fund gave a speech to business leaders.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am sure that it would have been a great speech.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: I have no doubt that you would think that. It was at the Menzies Research Centre. Was this in his role as chair of the Future Fund and did the Future Fund pay any expenses for that speaking event? You can take it on notice, if you like. It was on 9 September this year. Will you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Neal: Yes, we will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 38, 18 October 2016
12	Department of Finance	1/1.1	McAllister	Unlegislated policy decisions – breakdown of figures	<p>Senator McALLISTER: On page 8, in paragraph 3, as you indicated in your remarks earlier, there is a discussion about unlegislated policy decisions. Can you please provide a breakdown to the committee of what decisions are included in that \$18 billion figure?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I think we would have to take that on notice; that is quite a complex task.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will provide that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It is a whole-of-government exercise and we will be able to provide you with the information; we will provide it to you on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: ... My preference is to ensure that the information that is provided to the committee is as current and as accurate as possible. So we do what ministers before me have done, including Senator Wong in her day: we will take the question on notice and provide you with an accurate answer.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 40-41, 18 October 2016
13	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Gallagher	Breakdown of cost of same-sex marriage plebiscite	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: What is the difference between the \$160 million and \$170 million?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: There are some movements up and down. We have actually been able to bring the costs down in relation to some aspects but, of course, there is the additional expenditure in the proposal that comes with the \$15 million in public funding. I am not sure whether we have got the detailed breakdown here.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: If you have, that would be useful.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We might take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Of that \$170 million, has there been any provision made for extra support to mental health service groups in recognition of the increased demand that they might see through a plebiscite?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have taken the detail on notice and we will provide the answer to the extent that we might be able to assist.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 45, 18 October 2016
14	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Gallagher	Budget impact of changes to VET FEE-HELP	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: There was an announcement by Minister Birmingham last week, I think, on changes to VET FEE-HELP. Could you inform the committee on the budget impact of this—both the fiscal balance and the underlying cash balance?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I might take that on notice, Senator. This VET FEE-HELP area is quite complex and there is a different impact, as I recall it, on fiscal compared to UCB. We might need to take it on notice. Just to make sure, we will liaise with education and make sure that we have got it all broken down.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Could I add in, then, any impact on debt as part of that?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Yes. As I said, we will take it on notice, but in the minister's media release he did reference some of the debt reduction figures: \$7 billion across the forwards and \$25 billion over the next 10 years. We can include the debt line</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 46, 18 October 2016

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					in the information that we provide to break that down.	
15	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Smith	Categories of cash payments below the 2016-17 budget profile	<p>Senator SMITH: The question is, please outline for the committee what categories of cash payments were below the 2016-17 budget profile, and if you could put in layman's terms what types of payments or government spending that represents.</p> <p>Mr Greenslade: Yes—I can only give a very high-level breakdown for cash.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We might take this on notice.</p> <p>Mr Greenslade: We will take it on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 47, 18 October 2016
16	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Gallagher	Replacement IT system for ASIC database	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Is the costing figure an estimate for the IT system that is required \$100 million? What is Finance's costing on the replacement IT system that is required?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: I think I have read a figure of \$100 million. Is there any way that you could enlighten me on what the draft estimate is? Put whatever caveats you want around it; this is just to get an idea.</p> <p>Mr Edge: This is the estimate to replace the existing systems with a modern database. That estimate, I think, is certainly what we understand is required. As the minister said, something more than \$100 million.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: We might have to take it on notice to be more precise.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Something more than \$100 million but less than infinity.</p> <p>Mr Edge: We would have to take it on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 53, 18 October 2016
17	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Siewert	Perth Freight Link – access to Fiona Stanley Hospital	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Why, then, do you refuse to provide basic information around claims that the freight link would reduce congestion and accidents and improve access to Fiona Stanley Hospital? Why is it not in the public interest to release that information?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: This well and truly goes beyond my area of expertise. Because I have a particular interest in this very important public infrastructure project, I am really keen to assist and be helpful, but this is a very detailed infrastructure portfolio related question. I am happy to take it on notice and see how I can assist on notice, but it is not something that, on the spot like this, I can provide an adequately accurate response to you on.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: ... But, as I have already indicated to you, this is a very specific infrastructure related question. If you want a more precise and adequate explanation as to why, in the government's judgement, it is not in the public interest for that specific information to be publicly released, then I have already taken that on notice and I am happy to assist with providing either a response or an explanation as to why a response cannot be provided.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 57-58, 18 October 2016

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18	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Siewert	NDIS savings fund	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Minister, my understanding from the hearing that we had last Friday about the fund was that the Minister for Social Services and other ministers could identify still more savings that could potentially go into the account, but—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: You certainly would only take what is required to help meet the gap, but all of the savings that are identified here would remain in the fund. At the moment, our expectation is that there is not enough funding to fully fund the requirements of the NDIS over the medium to long term.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: This is exactly why I was concerned. Would you be able to have a look at the <i>Hansard</i> and see the conversation that we had—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will review the <i>Hansard</i> and provide you an accurate explanation.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: We will come back on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 60, 18 October 2016
19	Department of Finance	2/2.1	McAllister	Digital Transformation Office restructure	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I understand that last Friday the Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation announced the formation of a new Digital Transformation Agency that will be responsible for the ICT policy and procurement functions currently managed by the Department of Finance. Is that correct?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That is right, yes.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Last night I had the opportunity to talk to some of the officers from the Digital Transformation Office and they indicated that the first they knew of the change was when the assistant minister announced it. So what consultation took place with Finance about this restructure?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have obviously been part of the process of making relevant decisions by government. Finance, it will not surprise you, sits around the table with me when relevant decisions are made.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: When was the—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice. Genuinely, I mean—</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I have not asked my question yet!</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I thought you were going to say: when was the decision made?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I will ask a more general question. Was this contemplated before the election or after the election?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: A decision was made after the election. When this started to be contemplated I would have to have a look at.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: So you will come back to us with a date of when discussions commenced?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Yes.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is the restructure underpinned by a review or any sort of internal process?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Yes. It is the result of an internal process and it is a result of decisions of government. All decisions of government of this nature follow a deliberative process. We are obviously working our way through giving effect to it.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: That review took place prior to the election?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: In terms of the timing, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I cannot find the speech that Mr Taylor gave.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I do not have a copy with me. I am happy to provide it to you on notice. I would like you to read Mr</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 61-62, 18 October 2016

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					Taylor's speeches.	
20	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Gallagher, McAllister	Finance's involvement in relation to ICT in the Australian Bureau of Statistics	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: In relation to any of those gateway reviews, was any work done with the ABS in the lead up to some of the ICT issues pertaining to the census? Had you been involved in any of the—?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: They have certainly been subject to gateway reviews, but we might have to take on notice the exact detail, because there are a range of ICT projects in the ABS—including their big transformation project.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: It would be good to know what Finance's involvement has been in relation to ICT in ABS.</p> <p>Dr Bartlett: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Sorry, do you need to take the question of the census on notice? You cannot tell us whether or not you have provided advice?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: The question was specifically about gateway reviews, and there are a number of ICT-related activities in the ABS, so it is more about which one at what time et cetera.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I will ask a specific question, then, about the census. Did Finance have any role in advising the ABS on ICT issues around the 2016 census?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: No, we did not.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I am surprised by that—I suppose because my perception has been that moving the census online was a project of quite some scale.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: We might just have to clarify.</p> <p>Dr Bartlett: Mr Sheridan has talked about specific advice provided in terms of operational IT. We have a responsibility for assurance. I think what we are saying is that if you would like us to give you detail about an assurance process related to census I would have to take that on notice and check what is there. The documentation I have here deals with current assurance review processes. It indicates that the ABS transformation project is the subject of gateway reviews at the moment. It does not include the census, but it may well be because the census has already occurred, so I will need to check that and come back to you with notes.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Just to be clear: the budget measure in respect of the census is actually quite an old one now. It was in the 2013-14 budget, so we would need to go back and have a look at the capital investment component of that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Okay, so you will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 64, 18 October 2016
21	Department of Finance	2/2.3	Gallagher	Operation Tetris – square meterage in Brisbane	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have a global square metreage in Brisbane that Tetris is—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Hall: We will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 67, 18 October 2016

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22	Department of Finance	2/2.3	Gallagher	Operation Tetris – guidelines	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Can you explain how this is operationalised across the Service? Say an agency is coming up a year beyond—how does that work? Is it with a year to go on their lease that something is triggered? Can you just explain the process for me?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have some published guidelines that we might provide you with, which sort of set it out.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Okay. Thank you.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 67, 18 October 2016
23	Department of Finance	2/2.3	Gallagher	Relocation of APVMA – cost-benefit analysis	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: But Minister, are you prepared to answer some questions about the relocation of APVMA?</p> <p>Senator CORMANN: I suspect that any specific questions I would have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: I am after the cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take on notice to see whether we can provide anything in relation to that.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Yes, and what Finance's role was in that.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take it on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 68, 18 October 2016
24	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Xenophon	National trade obligations and WTO agreement's effect on procurement	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Could you please take on notice the basis upon which you say we will be breaching Arius national trade obligations by having the current procurement policy we have that does not take into account the economic stimulus values, the tax receipts and the social and economic benefits of buying local?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Mr Sheridan gave evidence that affect, and I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: What clause in what agreement are we prevented—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: I think the minister has agreed to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: And what effect will the WTO agreement on procurement that this government seems to be plunging towards signing have in relation to the whole issue of procurement?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice, too.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 72, 18 October 2016
25	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Xenophon	Quantity of locally produced and sourced goods and services	<p>Senator XENOPHON: ... Can you indicate, Mr Sheridan, as to whether the department has undertaken analysis to determine how difficult and how expensive it would be to actually determine how much of those 94 per cent of contracts awarded to Australian suppliers with the \$60 billion we spend of taxpayers' money on procuring goods and services that are actually locally produced and locally sourced goods and services?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We believe it is unquantifiable, but we will take that on notice and see to what extent we can make the—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I have indicated to you what the government's answer is. We will see, on notice, whether—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: But you do not ask the question, do you? You cannot quantify it because you will not ask the question.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Xenophon, the minister has agreed to take it on notice and I am sure he will come back to you if he has an answer...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 74, 18 October 2016

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26	Department of Finance	2/2.3	McAllister	Lift in The Lodge	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... I am particularly interested in understanding when the expenditure on the luggage lift was approved.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We might have to take that on notice to get the specific date.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: ... Are you certain you do not have the information with you today, Ms Huxtable?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am certain that I am taking it on notice. ...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Can you tell me what brand the lift is?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: No. That is not the sort of detail that we have with us, but I am happy to take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is it an Australian-made lift?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Can you tell me the dimensions of the lift?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I would also like to know what the weight capacity of the lift is.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Why don't you go through all your questions, and we will just take them on notice. I generally do not know what the weight capacity of the lift is?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I think those are some of the detailed questions that you have indicated you would like to take on notice. We were told yesterday that the insulation of the lift was to deal with OH&S questions. Can you elaborate on that, Ms Huxtable?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Obviously, the Prime Minister's department went through that yesterday. To the extent that I have fresh knowledge or fresh memory in relation to these matters, it is based on the evidence that I saw being given yesterday. Why don't we include your questions in relation to that with the questions that we have already taken on notice in relation to the lift?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I would like to know how many OH&S incidents have occurred as a result of lifting luggage.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I am not sure that we would know.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take it on notice. As always, we are keen to be helpful. It is not technically a matter for us, but I do not want to move you backwards and forwards, so I will seek to facilitate an answer.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Here is my last detailed question, and I feel certain you will take this on notice also. How many stairs are there at The Lodge?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I will say that we did seek to pursue this with Prime Minister and Cabinet yesterday, and they were very explicit in referring a range of questions to the Department of Finance. Do they tell you when they refer us to you at estimates?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: Well, they have not told me, and I did not see their evidence yesterday. I am very happy to go back and review their evidence and, given the questions that you have asked, liaise with them to make sure that we are being as helpful as possible in getting back to you.</p> <p>CHAIR: To be fair to them, I think they also undertook to take a lot of those questions on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: They did. It is simply that we had a very detailed discussion that probably went for over an hour the last time we were here at estimates about the same set of questions. I am surprised that neither department has come to this round of estimates in a position to discuss any of the detail at all.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 75-76, 18 October 2016

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					Senator Cormann: You are going to a level of detail—it is not unusual for the government of the day to take questions of that sort of nature on notice.	
27	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Gallagher	Allocation of efficiency dividend	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: It is already allocated; this is about the decisions to allocate. I think you indicated you had answered on notice before how the efficiency dividend was being applied across individual agencies. Have you answered that post-budget?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I might have to go back and look.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Could you just have a look?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: I was answering about the exemptions and partial exemptions. We have certainly taken on notice before the whole framework in which the efficiency dividend operates. To be honest, I am not sure if we have actually allocated the efficiency dividend yet, but we can take that on notice and I will get back to you. Those officials are not here anymore.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Were the national institutions considered as part of that exemption from the efficiency dividend?</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: There has not been any change.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Because we have it available, we will again put on notice for you the list of exemptions.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 77, 18 October 2016
28	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Gallagher	Efficiency dividend reallocation within portfolios	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: During your time as Minister for Finance, have you always agreed with those proposals when they have been put forward?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Could you also then take on notice whether an exemption has been sought for the national institutions in Canberra?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 78, 18 October 2016
29	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Gallagher	Commonwealth government Fleet Vehicle Selection Policy	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Hallelujah! That is a first for the day, I reckon, where I am in the right spot at the right time. Is there a current Commonwealth government Fleet Vehicle Selection Policy?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: Yes, there is.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Has it been recently updated? Can it be provided?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: We can certainly provide it, but it has not changed recently.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: When was it promulgated? When was it first established?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: I have to take that on notice, but it has been the same for some considerable time.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 79, 18 October 2016

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30	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Gallagher	Average volume of fleet vehicle purchases	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Just out of interest, what are the vehicle needs, in terms of what you purchase every year?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: We purchase quite a wide range of vehicles, from cars to utility vehicles and larger vehicles in certain circumstances. The fleet is quite diverse.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have an average volume per year?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: I could provide that on notice. I do not know the figure off the top of my head.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: For the previous financial year, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, what was the proportion of Australian made passenger vehicles?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: It is knowable, and we can provide that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 79, 18 October 2016
31	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Gallagher	Statistics on fleet vehicles – as at June 2016	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Returning to the vehicle fleet—I remember this because we had to answer questions about fleet at a local level—I was of the understanding that that was data that was reported six-monthly at the time, as opposed to being a mechanism going out to market. Could you check that for me.</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: I note that at the last estimates we answered some questions on notice about the fleet. In fact, it was question F160, where Senator Wong asked specific details about the fleet, both in June 2015 and December 2015. That answer, I think, has pretty much all the detail that you are looking for.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: In terms of the reporting of fleet statistics?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: Indeed it does, yes.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Do you maintain your view that the fleet statistics as they were outlined back in 2012-13 was really the information that was provided once for approach to market?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: The overall thing, yes. In the question last time we answered specifically the detail in June 2015 and December 2015. We could answer the question for you at June 2016, if you want to put it on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: I do.</p> <p>Mr Sheridan: We shall.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 81, 18 October 2016
32	Department of Finance	General	Gallagher	Reporting of incidents of fraud	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Were they reported to the department or were they picked up through your own internal processes?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I know the external fraud was reported to the department.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Was that by a third party?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: It was by a third party. I do not have the answer to the internal fraud. I will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 81-82, 18 October 2016
33	Department of Finance	2/2.4	Gallagher	Numbers of Act of Grace claims with costs attached	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: I get the point about not being able to give an average, I guess. The total cost of claims settled for 2015-16 is \$2.3 million. You are going to give me on notice how many of the 230 had costs attached to them?</p> <p>Mr Jagers: Yes, we will provide you with that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 84-85, 18 October 2016

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QoN No.	Agency	Outcome/ Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
34	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Gallagher	Government advertising – adjustment to the census campaign	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: But it did not happen in relation to the census. Did the adjustment to the census campaign require additional expenditure that was not foreshadowed? Presumably, in the original submission to the ICC, they would have a budget allocated to a particular campaign. Was there a—</p> <p>Senator Ryan: Senator Gallagher, I will take that on notice but, with the proviso that you will have the opportunity to ask Treasury this tomorrow. It will be me at the table at this stage for the ABS, so those questions would probably be more appropriately dealt with by the agency that was running the advertisement. However, if not, I will make sure and I will give them a heads-up.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 88, 18 October 2016
35	Department of Finance	3/3.1	McAllister	Melbourne Mailing/Damien Mantach – interest applied to payment	<p>Senator McALLISTER: In terms of the process, you mentioned a sequence of correspondence with various parties. I think it would assist if you could set out for all of that correspondence the dates on which you corresponded and with whom in relation to this matter.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: There is a degree of that, and it is very hard to summarise this. My preference would be to give you that on notice. We could give you a chronology with that correspondence.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I noticed that it took a long time to resolve. It took over a year to come to a final repayment. I understand that that was in part because of criminal matters being on foot. Has there been any interest applied to the amount that was owing at that time?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: That I do not know the answer to. I might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: It might be something that someone can assist with over the course of the evening.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: It would be unlikely.</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: We will see what we can do.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Yes, we will see what we can do.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Perhaps it can be resolved this evening. Otherwise, take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Mr Fredericks, I want to come back to the view you put to the committee that releasing the names of the MPs and senators involved in the matter in Victoria would not be something the department was willing to do. I want to clarify with you the grounds for that refusal to provide that information?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: Given the questioning before, and given the situation I outlined earlier, I indicated that I would refer that to Senator Cormann. I will refer that to Senator Cormann, as the senior portfolio minister and the minister who, if any handling of this matter has been necessary—I am not aware of any—has been handling it. I will refer that to him.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Are you referring it to him because the grounds you are claiming are public interest immunity?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: That will be a matter for him. I am not sufficiently aware, given the circumstances, of details to make any claim myself. I am going to refer the question to Senator Cormann.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: What is the time line for resolution of that, because you are not taking it on notice? Mr Fredericks has indicated simply an unwillingness to provide the information. Is it being taken on notice or is it being referred, so that this committee can satisfy itself that a public immunity claim is warranted?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: To be fair to Mr Fredericks, I do not think he asserted that. I will take the question on notice and refer it to Senator Cormann—given the arrangement I outlined earlier—given my status and my indication publicly and privately that I have nothing to do with these matters in an administrative sense. It will be taken on notice for Senator Cormann's consideration.</p> <p>...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 90-91 and 96-97, 18 October 2016

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QoN No.	Agency	Outcome/ Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
					<p>Mr Fredericks: It has to be made clear that the difficulty I find myself in, and why I would appreciate the opportunity to take it on notice from a departmental view, is that as a departmental official I do not have any right to claim public interest immunity that lies in the hands of government—</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Certainly.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: so normally we would be in a situation where the minister would be dealing with this issue.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: And I have taken on notice to refer to the minister, given the circumstances. I think that is the furthest we can take this this evening.</p> <p>...</p> <p>CHAIR: To be fair Senator McAllister, he is not saying that he will not provide it—just that he will take it on notice. Lots of questions are taken on notice for much more routine reasons than this. I think he is entitled to take these questions on notice.</p>	
36	Department of Finance	3/3.1	McAllister	Melbourne Mailing/Damien Mantach – accounting information	<p>Senator McALLISTER: You have made reference to a large volume of accounting information. Are you talking about invoices? Are you talking about their bookkeeping entries into their books? What kind of information are we talking about?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I do not have the detail of the information. I do recall that it was sufficient for our satisfaction. That is a question that, if you like, I could take on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I would appreciate it if you would. Before we go there, is there anyone else here, in your team, who can help, who knows, who was involved in the detail of the investigation?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think I am answering on behalf of the department. As I say, it is just genuinely a case where there was a range of information. None of us have it with us. As I say, very properly I should take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 91, 18 October 2016
37	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Sterle	Travel details on 1 September 2016 for the Minister for Justice and Customs, Hon Michael Keenan MP	<p>Senator STERLE: ... On the afternoon of 1 September ... the member for Stirling, Mr Keenan, was on a flight between Canberra and Melbourne and landed in Melbourne. ... Could you tell us what flights the minister did take that afternoon? Do you want to take them on notice?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: We do not have those details handy.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: That is all right. I will ask them and I am happy for you to take them on notice.</p> <p>Senator RYAN: We will take it on notice. Obviously, some of this material is normally released in the course of the six-monthly reports.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Absolutely. That will clear it up for me, but I will get you take it on notice anyway. Not only would I like to know what flights the minister took that afternoon, I would like to know what class the minister travelled in. I would like to know how much the minister's flight to Melbourne from Canberra cost the taxpayer. I would also like to know how much the minister's flight cost, if he did come back to Canberra from Melbourne. I would also like to know if the minister used Comcar services for travel that afternoon, including from Parliament House to Canberra airport and then from Canberra airport back to Parliament House, if he did. Then, if he left again that night, did he use Comcar from here back to Melbourne.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Thank you very much. I can check the reports when they come out in December, too.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 96, 18 October 2016

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QoN No.	Agency	Outcome/ Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
38	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Numbers of staff formerly working in special units of Government	<p>Senator FARRELL: That clarifies that matter. Have any of these individuals who were previously employed by the special units of government moved into or been hired by the government under the personal staffing allocations?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice, with the proviso that we generally do not use names, but we can provide numbers.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: We can have a look at the general breakup there.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: I am sure we can avoid any misunderstandings. Are you able to tell us how many and where they have gone to?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: We will take that on notice and we will provide information consistent with past practice. I have asked the same question, so I will try to provide answers consistent with that.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Are any of these people employed in the Prime Minister's Office?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: I honestly cannot answer that, so I will take it on notice...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 101, 18 October 2016
39	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Numbers of staff in the office of the Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills	<p>Senator FARRELL: I want to turn to some different items. I want to refer to the staffing for Karen Andrews. Can somebody give me some assistance?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: How many individuals have been employed in her office since the election of 2013? Are we able to find out that figure?</p> <p>Ms McGregor: We can take it on notice and find out.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: The figure that we have been provided with is a figure of 36 over the three years.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: Do you mean turnover?</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: We will have a look. I do not think that figure is accurate.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms McGregor: We will check for you. My vague recollection is that that 36 figure is incorrect.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Is that because you have done a check, or—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Huxtable: But we cannot recall the exact figure, so we will take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: We can find out for you.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: That is much appreciated. Can you tell us how many people in that figure—whatever the figure is, if it is not 36—actually formally resigned from her staff? I take it you have something that tells you what the reason for—</p> <p>Ms McGregor: I will have a look. We normally would not comment on individual staff arrangements and how they do or do not leave an office. But we are happy to—</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: I am not asking you to identify individuals; I am just asking whether half of them—let us take the figure of 36 for the moment—were resignations.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: We will take it on notice and provide information consistent with past practice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 101-102, 18 October 2016

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40	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Staffing matters in the office of the Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills	<p>Senator FARRELL: ... can you tell us whether any of the employees were dismissed as distinct from resigning? ...</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: I ask that you do everything in your power not to identify individuals.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: No but, for example, events might identify an individual. I will take it on notice and I will hopefully be back here next February when I can be quizzed again if you are unhappy with the information I provide.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: You will provide the information much sooner than next February, I am sure.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: No—I might provide it in the next two weeks and you might not like the answer; you might want to ask me questions. I will provide information consistent with past practice where there are longstanding conventions about how such matters are dealt with at estimates. ...</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: ... perhaps you could also tell us how many staff have taken leave in her office.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: ... Leave I will consider but, again, I think that it is trickier. ...</p> <p>Senator Ryan: ... I will start from the point that I would need a lot of convincing to provide that answer.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: I am putting these questions to you and I am happy to get whatever information you are willing to provide. While you are looking at that, can you indicate whether there are any claims of bullying in this particular office?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: Matters for the management of each member's or senator's office and what—let us say, for example, there is a difficult circumstance to manage. I will look at past practice and, if I do not provide you with the specific information you would like, I will provide an explanation as to why.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: While you are doing that, could you indicate who the bullying claims have been made against? ...</p> <p>Senator Ryan: I am not confirming, because I am not aware of the detail. I will provide an explanation for what I provide and what I do not. ...</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Can you tell us whether there have been any unfair dismissal claims?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: Again, as I said before, I will provide information as is consistent with past practice. The officials have just advised me that broad information—that is not identifying—is provided to the workplace health and safety committee.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: This information has already been provided?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: No, generally.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: As a general rule, information in relation to the sorts of things you are talking about is provided to the WHS committee—but not identifying information.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 102-103, 18 October 2016
41	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Staffing allocation for Senator Jacquie Lambie	<p>Senator FARRELL: It would seem that everybody is getting three people except for Senator Lambie. I see there is a note there that it is a temporary position. Why was it deemed necessary to have a different allocation for Senator Lambie?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: I am not aware off the top of my head. I will take it on notice unless I can locate something specific about that.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 103, 18 October 2016

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42	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Staffing allocation for crossbench parliamentarians	Senator FARRELL: ... Were these extra staff requested by the crossbenchers, or were they simply advised that this was the government's allocation? Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice...	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 104, 18 October 2016
43	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Office leasing costs in Devonport for former Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck	Senator FARRELL: Can you tell us how much that is costing? Ms McGregor: I do not think I have that information here. But we can get it on notice for you.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 112, 18 October 2016
44	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Office locations for Senators Bushby and Duniam	Senator FARRELL: It is our understanding that Senator Duniam plans to move into the same office in southern Tasmania currently used by Senator Bushby. Is that your understanding? Senator Ryan: I will correct the record if I am incorrect because I do not want to get confused with media commentary. I am not certain as to that course of events at the moment. Senator FARRELL: Is that under discussion? Senator Ryan: I deal with senators and members on an individual basis about their offices; I do not deal with them collectively. I will take it on notice because I cannot recall where we are up to at the moment.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 112-113, 18 October 2016
45	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Office lease for Senator David Bushby in Rosny Park	Senator FARRELL: Can you tell us how long the lease is left on Senator Bushby's office in Rosny Park? Ms McGregor: It is another year. We will check. I might take that on notice.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 113, 18 October 2016
46	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Rhiannon	Evidence of a 'deal' regarding CFMEU's leadership positions	Senator RHIANNON: I will start again. Minister Cash has claimed that the CFMEU had done—and I am quoting from Minister Cash—'a deal to hand senior leadership positions' to Messrs Parker and Greenfield. So my question is: does the AEC have any evidence that would point to a deal, considering you ran the election? Mr Rogers: I have no evidence before me, and, if you are talking about an issue that may have occurred outside of the election itself but rather in terms of the preparation for an election, by a particular group within a union, I have no evidence before me of that. Mr Pirani: ... But I am not aware of any specific irregularity that occurred in relation to an election that we have done under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act. But we will take that on notice.	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 114, 18 October 2016

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47	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Rhiannon	Rates for loans to political parties	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Do you also investigate if loans were provided at the market rate?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I am not sure that would play into our space. I cannot see that that would be part of our investigation. I might have to take on notice and think about that a little more.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: The reason I was asking is that, if the loan was provided at a concessional rate, would the difference be counted as a gift in kind and disclosed appropriately? Wouldn't you have to assess that if that happened?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I think I would like to consider my answer to that one. I will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 116, 18 October 2016
48	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Abetz	Donation to the CFMEU	<p>Senator ABETZ: I have one very brief bracket of questions about an intriguing issue which saw the CFMEU reporting, in its annual disclosure, that a former Tasmanian television reporter Wendy Kennedy donated \$850,000 to the CFMEU.</p> <p>...</p> <p>I am wondering whether the AEC is aware of this matter and whether it undertook any investigation as to how somebody's name and full address could have been put into such a document and, one assumes, signed.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I think I am aware of the issue. I think I remember it from earlier in the year. I am just trying to remember the outcome. I wonder if Mr Pirani might know.</p> <p>Mr Pirani: I would prefer to take it on notice, but I certainly do have a recollection of the events.</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I think, from memory, she denied it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. I think the CFMEU have acknowledged that she was not the donor of \$850,000 to the CFMEU.</p> <p>Mr Rogers: We will take that on notice. I do remember the case, and I think she totally denied any involvement in the issue, from memory.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I do not think there is any suggestion that Ms Kennedy did. The reason I ask is: does the AEC look at some of these cases to see if the names that are presented are actually correct? I assume the document on which her name appeared must have been signed off by somebody—</p> <p>Mr Rogers: And then submitted to us as a signed document. We will take it notice. I do remember the case, but I do not have the outcome in front of me.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 116, 18 October 2016
49	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Rice	Procurement dates for the same-sex marriage plebiscite	<p>Senator RICE: Are you able to take that on notice? Could we get a timetable of those procurement dates for the plebiscite on notice?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I will take that on notice ...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 118, 18 October 2016
50	Australian Electoral Commission	General	McAllister	AEC's contact with Mr Lincoln Folo regarding the 'Fadden Forum'	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I refer you to another article from around the same time, in May. I will table it for the same reason. It is headlined 'Sacked minister Stuart Robert in cash scandal'. There is a line in that report which says that the funnelling of at least \$70,000 out of the Fadden Forum has already led to the demotion of LNP state director Lincoln Folo. Did you ever speak to Mr Folo about the Fadden Forum? Could you tell us about that?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Rogers: Senator, I can tell you while we are waiting for that article that I have never spoken to the individual you just mentioned. Whether one of my staff has or not, I will have to take on notice.</p> <p>Mr Pirani: Our normal practice would be to deal with the party agent. So whoever was the relevant party agent at that</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 120 and 128, 18 October 2016

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					<p>time for the LNP would have been the person who the AEC would have spoken to. Mr Rogers: But we will have to confirm that, and we will have to take that on notice. ... Mr Rogers: I am not sure that I am going to be able to expand on it this evening but I am happy to take on notice who we may or may not have spoken to. It would be useful to get the article at some point in any case. ... Senator McALLISTER: All right. There are a range of issues that are in here. I will leave it with you. I would appreciate it if you would examine the allegations in the newspaper articles that I have provided and come back to us on notice as to whether there are any issues there that concern you at the AEC. Thank you. Mr Rogers: Certainly.</p>	
51	Australian Electoral Commission	General	McAllister	AEC's contact with AUSTRAC regarding the 'Fadden Forum'	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Separate to the question of how many different donations there are, you are aware that there are certain classes of transaction that are reported to AUSTRAC. They are usually bank transactions of \$10,000 and above. That information is available to law enforcement and other government agencies. A number of Ms Holzapfel donations were over the \$10,000 threshold. Have you had any contact with AUSTRAC about the Fadden Forum? Mr Rogers: I have not, obviously. I am not sure—I would have to take that on notice— Mr Pirani: As far as I am aware, the answer is no. Mr Rogers: but I think we might check that, Senator, to be perfectly accurate for you.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 123, 18 October 2016
52	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Smith	Location of multiple voters	<p>Senator SMITH: Can you tell us in which states or territories those multiple marks occurred? Of the two that had 11 marks— Mr Rogers: I am going to have to take that on notice to be accurate. I will be able to provide that detail, but I do not have it here at the moment. Senator SMITH: Can you give us a state and territory breakdown in terms of the 4,627 people? Mr Rogers: I will be able to provide that. I will take that on notice and provide that to you.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 125, 18 October 2016
53	Department of Finance	General	Gallacher	Departmental credit cards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What types of credit and transaction cards (including Cabcharge, Fastcard and eTickets) does your department issue? 2. What was the total expenditure for each type of card over the last 3 financial years? 3. Can you break down the expenditure into categories? 4. What is the highest and lowest credit limit for each type of card? 5. How many times in the last 5 years has the credit limit been reviewed? 6. What are Credit Cards used for? 7. What are the Governance/probity rules for employees to follow? 8. Are cash advances allowed? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Can you list the total amount of cash advances from credit and other transaction cards over the last 3 years? b) Can you provide details on the 10 largest cash advances in your department and provide particulars such as how much was accessed? c) Who approves cash advances in your department in the event of paying suppliers 9. Who reviews transactions in regards to all cards? 10. Who provides assurance to the Minister in respect to probity governance and fraud control? 	Written

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54	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Bilyk	Australian Standard on ICT accessibility	<p>The Chief Technology Officer Mr Sheridan made an announcement on 9th September about the Federal Government's intention to establish an Accessibility Standard for ICT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has prompted this announcement? 2. Is this a Cabinet commitment? 3. Other than the US and EU efforts, what other country has implemented this standard? Is Australia playing catch up? 4. Given the development of common standards across Australia and NZ on a range of fronts, is NZ involved here? 5. What information can the CTO or the Department provide about the process by which this procurement standard will be developed? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Timeframe? b) Scope? c) Whole of government? d) Is it a COAG identified priority? e) Who will lead this work? f) Which Minister will have carriage? g) What consultation with other stakeholder ministers? h) What engagement of stakeholder departments and agencies? i) Will there be consultation with the disability advocacy groups and consumer representatives? j) What involvement will there be from other sectors - the financial services sector for example? ABS, ICT industry in developing the standard? k) Where is this item in the budget papers? l) Cost of the development? 	Written
55	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Carr	Purchasing of copy paper – percentage of Australian made	For each Australian Government Department and/or government agency, can the Department of Finance please provide a breakdown of the percentage of Australian made copy paper purchased by the Department in the 2015-16 financial year, as well as the total percentage of Australian made copy paper purchased by the Australian Government in the 2015-16 financial year. In the Department's response, please include information on volumes, a breakdown by country of origin, the supplier and the percentage of recycled content.	Written
56	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Carr	Purchasing of copy paper – subject to investigation by the Australian Anti-dumping Commission	In the 2014-15 and the 2015-16 financial years, did any Australian Government Departments and/or government agencies purchase A4 copy paper from a country or mill that was subject to a dumping or countervailing investigation by the Australian Anti-dumping Commission? If so, please provide a breakdown of the Department and/or agency, the country or origin of the paper, the status of the investigation when the purchasing decision was made, the supplier, and the value of the contract.	Written
57	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Xenophon	ASC – major work	<p>In terms of major work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the submarine sustainment contract: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What year was the Contract signed? b) What is the total value of that contract? c) What value is yet to be completed/invoiced? 	Written

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					<p>d) In what year does this contract expire?</p> <p>2. What year was the Air Warfare Destroyer Contract signed?</p> <p>a) What year was the Contract signed?</p> <p>b) What is the total value of that contract?</p> <p>c) What value is yet to be completed/invoiced?</p> <p>d) In what year does this contract expire?</p> <p>3. What other significant funded work does the company have on its order book? (e.g. supply ship work, OPV studies, Future Frigate studies, Future Submarines).</p> <p>4. Was ASC aware of the need for an Icebreaker for the Australian Antarctic Division?</p> <p>5. Did ASC consider a formal response to any request for information/expression of interest?</p> <p>a) If so, what work did ASC undertake in relation to this opportunity?</p> <p>b) Why did the company not respond to a request for information/expression of interest?</p> <p>6. Noting the board's responsibility with respect to the company's order book:</p> <p>a) What work is ASC seeking in respect of the Offshore Patrol Vessels?</p> <p>b) What work is ASC seeking in respect of the Future Frigates?</p> <p>c) What work is ASC seeking in respect of the Future Submarines?</p> <p>7. What is the current book value of the ASC Group and individual companies (e.g. ASC shipbuilding, etc.)?</p> <p>8. What direct involvement has ASC had development of Defence's Enterprise Naval Shipbuilding plan?</p> <p>9. What dialogue has taken place between ASC and Defence in relation to the plan?</p> <p>10. What information has the Department sought from ASC in support of the plan?</p>	
58	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Xenophon	Australian Political Parties for Democracy Programme	<p>1. For financial year 2014-15:</p> <p>a) How much public funding was expended in relation to the APPDP?</p> <p>b) How much of this funding went to the Liberal Party?</p> <p>c) How much of this funding went to the Labor Party?</p> <p>d) How much of this funding went to the Greens?</p> <p>e) What of the spent money was allocated to overseas travel?</p> <p>f) For approved overseas travel, please provide:</p> <p>i. Name of Person that travelled</p> <p>ii. Organisation</p> <p>iii. Reason for travel/activity undertaken</p> <p>iv. Class of air travel</p> <p>v. Cost of travel</p> <p>2. For financial year 2015-16 please provide the same information sets.</p>	Written
59	All	General	Bilyk	Ministerial functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 January 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <p>1. List of functions;</p> <p>2. List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff;</p> <p>3. Function venue;</p> <p>4. Itemised list of costs;</p>	Written

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					5. Details of any food served; 6. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; 7. Details of any floral arrangements or other decorations; and 8. Details of any entertainment provided.	
60	Department of Finance	General	Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 January 2016? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided?	Written
61	Department of Finance	General	Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises been upgraded since 1 January 2016, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new furniture, fridges, coffee machines, audio visual facilities or any other equipment including kitchen equipment and utensils? If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written
62	Department of Finance	General	Bilyk	Vacancies	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.	Written
63	Department of Finance	General	Bilyk	Media monitoring	How much has the Department spent on media monitoring since 1 January 2016? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to media monitoring contracts please be provided?	Written
64	Department of Finance	General	Bilyk	Department of Finance's advertising and information campaigns	How much has the Department spent on advertising and information campaigns since 1 January 2016? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to advertising and information campaign contracts please be provided?	Written

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65	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Bilyk	Future Fund's Christmas party	Where is the Future Fund Management Agency hosting its 2016 Staff Christmas Party?	Written
66	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Bilyk	CEO functions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by the CEO Peter Costello since 1 January 2016, can the following please be provided: 1. List of functions; 2. List of attendees; 3. Function venue; 4. Itemised list of costs; 5. Details of any food served; 6. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; 7. Details of any floral arrangements or other decorations; and 8. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written
67	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Has the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the CEO's office or the offices of any Executives been upgraded since 1 January 2016? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided?	Written
68	Future Fund Management Agency	General	Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Have the facilities of any of the Agency's premises been upgraded since 1 January 2016, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new furniture, fridges, coffee machines, audio visual facilities or any other equipment including kitchen equipment and utensils? If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written
69	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Employment of former Members of Parliament	I refer to earlier estimates hearings where it was revealed that the President of the Senate had employed former Member Eric Hutchinson, and a media report of three other former members being hired under the Government's staffing allocation. 1. Is it accurate that the former members; Matt Williams, Karen McNamara, and Peter Hendy have been hired under the Government's staffing allocation? 2. Under what classification is Mr Williams employed and for what purpose? 3. Under what classification is Ms McNamara employed and for what purpose? 4. Under what classification is Mr Hendy employed and for what purpose? 5. Are these staff members ever required to represent their employers in their electorates? 6. Are any of these appointments in addition to the Government allocation?	Written

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QoN No.	Agency	Outcome/ Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
70	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Career Transition Payments	<p>I have some questions relating to access to career transition payments for the purpose of obtaining financial advice, consistent with clause 73 of the MOP(S) Act staff enterprise agreement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 2 July 2016 (election day), how many requests have been made for career transition payments? 2. How many have been approved? 3. How many have been denied? 4. What number of payments have been made to date? 5. How many outstanding requests are there? 6. What is the average time between an individual making a request and payment being approved? 7. What is the average time between a payment being approved and payment being received? 8. What is your performance target for resolution of requests under this clause, that is, how quickly after making a request should an individual expect to receive approval? 9. Would you be surprised if I told you one individual I am aware of has been waiting over three weeks since requesting access to the payment for that request to be approved or denied? 10. Do you agree it would be desirable for people who have lost their jobs to have access to career transition counselling, training or financial advice within reasonable proximity of that event occurring? 11. What action will you take to ensure more timely advice? 12. Can a copy of the standard letter and attachments sent to staff in the event of a genuine redundancy in respect of which severance benefits are payable under clause 71.2 or of a termination of employment where additional severance benefits are payable under clause 72.1 please be provided? 	Written
71	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Hon Wyatt Roy, Former Member for Longman – recent travel to Iraq	<p>I refer to the former Member for Longman’s travel to Sinjar Iraq.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the former Member for Longman’s defeat at the 2016 Federal election, what entitlements or salary payouts did he receive? 2. What was the total amount of those entitlements and payouts? 3. Is the Department or Minister aware if any of these funds assisted his travel to Iraq? 4. Is Mr Roy entitled to any flights or travel, if so, did any of these flights assist his recent journey to Iraq? 5. Was any Australian tax-payer money used or expended as a result of Mr Roy’s travel (Including expenses in trying to contact him, locate him, or return him to Australia?). 	Written
72	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Office accommodation – President of the Senate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide an itemised list of all expenses (including rent, utilities and other expenses) over the last two years for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Hobart Office of Senator Stephen Parry; and b) The Launceston Office of Senator Stephen Parry. 2. In relation to Senator Stephen Parry’s Hobart Office: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Please provide an itemised list of the fitout expenses; b) What date did he move into the office; c) What is the lease term? d) Is Senator Parry only entitled to this office for the duration of his term as President? 	Written

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73	All	General	McAllister	Breakdown of staffing information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide a breakdown of staffing levels as at 30 June 2016, nationally and for each state and territory, by the following categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Full time equivalent (FTE); b) Head count; c) Gender; d) Ongoing; e) non-ongoing; and f) classification level. 2. How many engagements occurred in the 2015-16 financial year, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Classification; b) State or territory; c) Ongoing staff; and d) Non-ongoing staff. 3. How many separations occurred in the 2015-16 financial year, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Classification; b) State or territory; c) Ongoing staff; d) Non-ongoing staff; and e) Reason for separation. 4. What was the total expenditure on contractors and consultants in the 2015-16 financial year. 5. For each contract or consultancy in the 2015-16 financial year, please outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The project or engagement; b) The value of the contract; c) The name of each firm or contractor engaged; and d) The purpose of the contract. 6. For each contract or consultancy in the 2015-16 financial year, please outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The names of each firm or contractor engaged; and b) Total payments made to each contractor or consultant. 7. For the 2015-16 financial year, please outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) How many staff were employed through labour hire arrangements; b) Total expenditure on labour hire staff; c) The contractors or labour hire firms engaged to supply these staff; d) Total payments to each of the organisations that provided staff through either a labour hire arrangement or other contractual arrangement; and e) The nature of the work performed by labour hire staff. 	Written

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74	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Bilyk	Ms Sophie Mirabella's ASC Board tenure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On what date did Ms Mirabella cease to be a Director of ASC? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Did she resign or was she sacked? b) If she was sacked, why? Was it for misconduct? 2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by former Director Sophie Mirabella during her tenure, can the following please be provided: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) List of functions; b) List of attendees; c) Function venue; d) Itemised list of costs; e) Details of any food served; f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; g) Details of any floral arrangements or other decorations; and h) Details of any entertainment provided. 3. Was the furniture, fixtures or fittings of Sophie Mirabella's office upgraded while she was a Director of ASC? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided? 4. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What was the total cost of flights for Sophie Mirabella's domestic travel during her time in office as a Director of ASC? b) What was the total cost of flights for Ms Mirabella's international travel during her time in office? c) Was Ms Mirabella permitted to travel in business class when flying domestically? d) What class was Ms Mirabella permitted to travel in when flying internationally? e) What was the total cost of hotel accommodation in relation to Ms Mirabella's domestic travel during her time in office? What hotels did she stay at? f) What was the total cost of hotel accommodation in relation to Ms Mirabella's international travel during her time in office? What hotels has she stayed at? g) What was the total amount of Travelling Allowance paid to Ms Mirabella during her time in office? h) What was the total cost of ground transport in relation to Ms Mirabella's travel during her time in office? i) Was Ms Mirabella entitled to use Comcar? j) Was Ms Mirabella entitled to a privately-plated vehicle at Commonwealth expense? k) What was the total cost of meals and other incidentals for Ms Mirabella during her time in office? l) Was Ms Mirabella provided with a mobile telephone at Commonwealth expense? m) If so, what was the total cost of Ms Mirabella's mobile telephone bills during her time in office? n) What type of mobile telephone was Ms Mirabella provided with? o) Was Ms Mirabella provided with a laptop, ipad or other similar device? 	Written
75	Department of Finance	2/2.6	Whish-Wilson	Notional employer contribution in a defined benefit scheme	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I will ask my last question. You have given us the values and the number of employees, but what were the various rates, the defined benefits, under those schemes, in percentage terms? I want to compare it to the bond yield you were talking about.</p> <p>Dr Helgeby: Senator, if I understand your question correctly, it is: what is the value of what, in a defined benefit scheme, we would call the notional employer contribution?</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes. I can get it from you later, if you like.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 33, 18 October 2016

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					Dr Helgeby: We will be ready for that.	
76	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Gallagher	Breakdown of \$174.7 million Government advertising figure	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: For the benefit of completeness, would you be able to provide us with a list of what constituted the \$174.7 million?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: That will come out with the report and, if not, we will get it for you on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: It will be either in the annual report—</p> <p>Senator Ryan: Yes, it may well be when it comes out.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: or in your answer.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 87, 18 October 2016
77	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Farrell	Increase to numbers of senior Government staffing positions	<p>Senator FARRELL: If we accept that is the position that you have removed 12 of the lower category employees and increased to 24 the higher category employees—in fact, senior advisers close to the top by category—can you explain what has brought this change about?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: As I said, the determination of allocations is a matter for the Prime Minister and I am happy to take on notice if you have a specific question. It is not something I can speak to off the top of my head. I will note that based on past practice, in my experience, as a government has gone on in years, you do tend to get more people at higher classifications.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: That is obviously one possible explanation.</p> <p>Senator Ryan: You notice that over time. Other than that, I will take on notice any other reason which I become aware.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Is it that you have been promoting?</p> <p>Senator Ryan: Honestly, I cannot speak to that. As I said, the determination of staff is not a matter within my personal purview.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Perhaps if you can come back and look at that and see if you can tell us whether it has been promotions and if these people being replaced. ...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 99-100, 18 October 2016
78	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Watt	Australian Hearing – Steering Committee on Future Ownership	<p>With regards to the steering committee on the future ownership of AHS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the date of each of the last four meetings? 2. Does AHS have a representative on the steering committee? 	Written