

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.3**

**Question: BE14/092**

**Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:**

1. Is it true that responsibility for the Open Government Partnership was 'delegated' to the Minister for Finance in 2013?
  - a. When did this take place?
  - b. What form did the delegation take?
  - c. What was the effect of the delegation?
  - d. Was the delegation the decision of the Attorney-General?
  - e. Why was the delegation conducted?
2. Why was the Department of Finance not nominated as the Lead Agency following the delegation?
3. When did the Government first consider the appointment of Finance as the Lead Agency?
4. In answer to questions on notice arising out of the last Estimates session no. 41, 140, 141 and 142, the Government stated that joining the OGP and developing an Action Plan was 'under consideration by the Government'.
  - a. Who has been 'considering' these matters?
  - b. What process has been engaged in to further the 'consideration' of these matters?
  - c. What consultations have been conducted while the Government has been 'considering' these matters?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1. The responsibility was not "delegated". In 2013 the Attorney-General agreed to a temporary transfer of responsibility for Open Government Partnership (OGP) matters to the Minister for Finance.
2. Not necessary to answer.
3. 2013.
4. This is a matter for the Minister for Finance.