QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/006) - Terminated RFT contract value - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 32) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: I have further questions on that matter, but I want to look at the document. I go back to your statement regarding the headquarters project. You indicated that the tender had been withdrawn. Is that right?
Mr Pezzullo: It has now been terminated—the original RFT.
Senator KIM CARR: What was the estimated value of that contract?
Mr Pezzullo: We would not normally indicate the total amount of funds we have available, just to ensure that there is a competitive process, but I might ask our chief operating officer, Dr Charker, to indicate what the publicly recorded provisioning for the project is—it is not quite the same thing. Dr Charker is both deputy secretary, corporate, of the department and chief operating officer of the entire portfolio. She has responsibilities for property management, amongst many other things.
Dr Charker: As the secretary has noted, we have been undergoing a request for tender process, which we did recently terminate. It was trying to give the department a key platform to support the integration and reform outcomes that we are seeking to deliver, as well as to try to consolidate functions across a large number of buildings, which would enable us to provide a more open, collaborative workplace and better service delivery to government. We released the request for tender in 2014 and it closed in late 2014. As the secretary has noted, we terminated that on the basis of some changes to requirements and our inability to obtain approval for the tender process. As to the precise amount financially of that tender, I would have to get advice, which I can do in the very short term, from one of my colleagues here. I can provide that to you very shortly.

Answer:

The Department cannot provide this information as it is commercial-in-confidence.