

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: 841

Topic: Costs of implementing the information publication scheme

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Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN: Maybe, on notice, you can have a look at what we have talked about and provide us with any information about the cost that flows from implementing the changes that came into effect on 1 May and how that has impacted on the cost of complying with the information publication scheme since then.

Dr Parkinson: We are happy to take that on notice. The bulk of the costs, though, as always, has been associated with the identification and assessment of the individual documents associated with each application. Where we have therefore incurred most of the cost has been the significant increase in a number of FOI applications that we are now having to deal with.

Answer:

Treasury has not separately identified the costs of maintaining the Information Publishing Scheme (IPS) as these costs have been absorbed in the Department's existing budget. Treasury will be required to separately identify the costs of maintaining the IPS when it submits its 2011-12 annual report to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. Currently, Treasury is determining how costs will be assessed.