

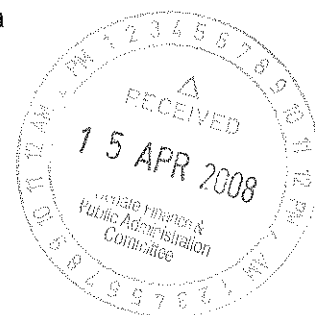
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F16

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures - Claims for compensation

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Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Dr Watt, did Mr Tanner seek any advice as to the potential for claims for compensation as part of these [45 savings] measures from the department of finance?

Dr Watt—We do not normally comment on the advice we give, Senator. You know that.

Senator COLBECK—No, I am just saying: did he ask? I do not want to know about the advice or what the advice said; I am just asking: did he ask for advice?

Dr Watt—I do not think I can comment on what the minister might or might not have asked for. We can take it on notice.

Answer:

The decisions taken by the Strategic Budget Committee of Cabinet were made following the provision of departmental advice. It would not be appropriate to canvass the content of departmental advice in this process.