

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
20 October 2015

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.2

**Topic:** Defence Housing Australia reform

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** F67

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 4 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. How many staff are involved in the reform of Defence Housing Australia from a Finance perspective? Can the Department provide a breakdown by classification.
2. Are there any contractors or consultants working on this reform in Finance? If so, how many? How much are they being paid?
3. The budget measure stated that there would be a review of Defence Housing Australia's accounting, information technology and business reporting systems, as well as its business plans. What has been found so far in relation to these systems and the business plans?
4. Of the \$3.5 million that was provided to Finance this financial year for this reform work, can the Department advise how much has been spent to date?

**Answer:**

1. Approximately four individual staff ranging from APS 4 level to SES Band 1, noting that the team is not fully dedicated to the DHA reform activities.
2. The reform process has commenced with Finance appointing KordaMentha Pty Ltd to undertake a forensic review of DHA's accounting, information technology and business reporting systems to enhance visibility of the cost of housing services provided by DHA, following an open tender process. The contract amount for this work is \$397,425.00 (GST incl).
3. The forensic review is currently underway and DHA's accounting, information technology and business reporting systems are being examined. The review of DHA's business plans has yet to commence.

4. As above, the forensic review is underway and KordaMentha is undertaking its review work. The contract amount for this work is \$397,425.00 (GST incl), noting that as at 20 October 2015 none of this amount has been paid.

As at 20 October 2015, an amount of \$29,602.10 (GST incl) has been paid to the Australian Government Solicitor for legal advice in relation to the forensic review.

The total year-to-date Finance staffing costs for those who have been involved in the work up to the end of September 2015 are \$356,000.00, noting that the team is not fully dedicated to the DHA reform activities.