

**Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee
Inquiry into Digital Delivery**

7 May 2018

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Digital Transformation Agency

Topic: CEO Leave

Senator: Singh

Question reference number: 1

Type of question: Hansard Monday 7 May 2018, page 2

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 23 May 2018

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: So nothing subsequent to that published article suggesting that he wasn't returning?

Mr Brugeaud: Not as far as I'm aware.

CHAIR: And no staff have asked a question about what's happening?

Mr Brugeaud: Staff read the original communication, which said that Mr Slater was going to be returning to the role.

Senator SINGH: Where was that made publicly available, as you said previously?

Mr Brugeaud: I'll need to check exactly where that was made available.

Answer:

On further advice, the CEO did not publicly announce his leave intentions as it is not common practice to publish staff personal leave arrangements. However, there was no secrecy surrounding his leave.

Internal communications were issued to DTA and ABS staff well in advance of the leave explaining the interim CEO arrangements. Following the media report on 29 March, Mr Slater again wrote to staff to reaffirm his commitment to return to the DTA.

Mr Slater informally advised various government and private sector stakeholders of the interim arrangements in the weeks before the leave started.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee
Inquiry into Digital Delivery**

7 May 2018

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Digital Transformation Agency

Topic: Use of contractors

Senator: Singh

Question reference number: 2

Type of question: Hansard Monday 7 May 2018, pp. 3-4

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 23 May 2018

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: I suppose there are some quite specific recommendations there and it seems a shame that they weren't responded to in the last 10 years. I would be disappointed if they were still relevant in 10 years time. For example, Sir Peter says we ought to:

Reduce the total number of ICT contractors in use ... by 50% over a 2-year period and increase the number of APS ICT staff.

If anything, the use of contractors has probably intensified in the intervening years.

Senator SINGH: Has it?

Mr Brugeaud: I don't know the overall numbers for the APS, I'm sorry. That would be a matter for the APSC.

Senator SINGH: What about ICT contractors?

Mr Brugeaud: I don't have—

Senator SINGH: Have they increased over the last 10 years? I don't—

Mr Brugeaud: I just don't know, I'm sorry.

Senator PATERSON: Witnesses shouldn't be without that, should they, Senator!

Senator SINGH: I'm happy for Mr Brugeaud to take it on notice.

Answer:

The DTA does not collect this data.

A recent submission from the Department of Finance to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (*Australian Government Contract Reporting - Inquiry based on Auditor-General's report No. 19 (2017-18); Department of Finance; 4.2 Supplementary to submission 4; Question 7*) demonstrates that such a data collection would require significant effort across agencies, and would carry caveats making it difficult to use for reliable decision-making.