

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 50 (Senator B. Pocock)

Please provide in excel format data on all current Commonwealth contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia) and Scyne Advisory, including:

- a) name of project
- b) type of project
- c) cost
- d) contract commencement date, and
- e) contract finalisation date.

Response

The attached provides a list of active, as at 6 May 2024, Commonwealth contracts reported on Austender with PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia and Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd.

Further information on these contractual arrangements is held by individual Commonwealth entities.

PwC Active Contracts							
Agency Name	Contract Notice ID	Start Date	End Date	Contract Description	Contract Category	Value	
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	CN3788861	28/06/2021	28/06/2024	Purchase of Information Technology	Computer services	\$	484,472.43
Department of Education	CN3944872	17/01/2023	30/12/2025	FBT RETURNS	Management advisory services	\$	68,750.00
Department of Education	CN3956520	3/01/2023	20/12/2024	Internal Audit Services	Internal audits	\$	400,000.00
Department of Home Affairs	CN3964888	1/07/2023	30/06/2024	Software Maintenance & Support	Software maintenance and support	\$	35,009.70
Australian Signals Directorate	CN3970387	17/05/2023	16/05/2024	Software	Software	\$	106,086.56
Australian National Audit Office	CN3978364	23/06/2023	22/06/2024	Provision of Methodology Support Services	Audit services	\$	52,965.00
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	CN3980704	24/04/2023	30/06/2024	Legal Services	Legal services	\$	82,500.00
Australian Signals Directorate	CN4011554	12/09/2023	15/07/2024	Software	Software	\$	47,945.89
Australian National Audit Office	CN4031467	1/02/2024	31/01/2027	NBN Co Ltd financial statements 24 - 26	Audit services	\$	11,259,492.00
Department of Home Affairs	CN4040585	26/02/2024	25/02/2025	IT Services	Software maintenance and support	\$	27,500.00
Prior PwC now Scyne Active Contracts							
Agency Name	Contract Notice ID	Start Date	End Date	Contract Description	Contract Category	Value	
Department of Defence	CN3565727-A2	1/12/2018	30/06/2024	Capability Development Project Management	Components for information technology or broadcasting or telecommunications	\$	32,040,070.32
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN3946367	13/02/2023	30/06/2024	Program Assurance Evaluation Services	Management advisory services	\$	596,200.00
Department of Defence	CN3843270-A2	14/12/2021	13/12/2024	Information Communication Technology Technical Services	Components for information technology or broadcasting or telecommunications	\$	1,716,007.48
Services Australia	CN3846663-A3	1/01/2022	31/12/2024	Labour Hire	Computer services	\$	7,266,160.00
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	CN3855829-A1	8/03/2022	31/10/2024	Financial and Insurance Services	Management advisory services	\$	220,000.00
Department of Education	CN3862130	5/04/2022	30/06/2024	Developing Critical Skills Courses	Research programs	\$	2,800,000.00
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	CN3895661-A3	1/07/2022	30/06/2024	Identity and Access Management Services	Computer services	\$	5,073,200.00
Department of Defence	CN3898210-A1	1/07/2022	30/06/2024	Policy & Guidance Development Support	Strategic planning consultation services	\$	1,573,468.16
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	CN3903215-A1	25/07/2022	7/03/2026	Engagement of a delivery partner for the Integrated River Modelling Uplift Program	Management advisory services	\$	27,637,819.00
Department of Finance	CN3903771-A1	13/05/2022	30/06/2024	Data Services	Data services	\$	4,000,000.00
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN3943815	12/01/2023	24/12/2024	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support Phone Line	Management advisory services	\$	1,128,600.00
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN3946367-A1	13/02/2023	30/06/2024	Program Assurance Evaluation Services	Management advisory services	\$	596,200.00
Australian Signals Directorate	CN3948234-A1	13/02/2023	30/06/2025	Coaching and Facilitation Services	Management support services	\$	7,262,447.50
Department of Defence	CN3968074	12/05/2023	30/06/2024	Asset Accounting Services	Management support services	\$	139,745.32
Department of Education	CN3968685-A1	14/04/2023	30/06/2024	Review of existing targeted programs - National Workforce Strategy	Management advisory services	\$	338,188.00
National Emergency Management Agency	CN3986196-A1	3/07/2023	31/12/2024	Management Advisory Services	Management advisory services	\$	2,068,940.57
Austrade	CN3905043-A1	22/07/2022	30/06/2024	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	\$	1,234,808.00
Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority	CN3963220	27/03/2023	30/04/2025	Australian Non-Admitted Classification Project	Management advisory services	\$	5,472,223.90
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	CN3942919-A1	21/12/2022	17/06/2024	ICTSR 221973 - CyberArk licenses	Components for information technology or broadcasting or telecommunications	\$	964,586.94
Department of Defence	CN3943215	16/01/2023	19/01/2026	Project Management Support Services	Management advisory services	\$	1,497,180.00
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN3919210-A1	26/09/2022	30/06/2025	Independent Evaluation of National Expansion of Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Program	Management advisory services	\$	1,784,018.50
Department of Defence	CN3919963-A2	3/10/2022	30/06/2024	Project Support Services	Project management	\$	3,032,776.52
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN3931888-A3	28/11/2022	30/06/2024	Program Management and Support Services	Management advisory services	\$	2,574,781.82
New Scyne Active Contracts							
Agency Name	Contract Notice ID	Start Date	End Date	Contract Description	Contract Category	Value	
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN4026005	2/01/2024	28/06/2024	Program Management Support Primary Care	Management advisory services	\$	1,064,320.87
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	CN4032461	1/02/2024	31/07/2024	Project and Program Management	Project management	\$	328,570.00
Department of Defence	CN4036066	15/01/2024	15/01/2025	Support Services	Management support services	\$	2,753,988.80
Department of Defence	CN4037432	14/02/2024	30/06/2024	Support Services	Management support services	\$	1,154,333.75
Department of Defence	CN4037433	14/02/2024	30/06/2024	Support Services	Management support services	\$	2,781,021.38
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	CN4039424	11/12/2023	30/08/2025	Auditing Services	Management advisory services	\$	1,766,000.00
NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	CN4044862	19/03/2024	18/03/2027	Audit and assurance services	Internal audits	\$	1,200,000.00
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN4045916	10/04/2024	28/06/2024	Digital Health Planning	Management advisory services	\$	79,695.00
Department of Education	CN4047602	8/04/2024	30/06/2024	Project Office Support Services	Research programs	\$	400,914.70
Bureau of Meteorology	CN4047698	3/04/2024	31/12/2024	Stakeholder Engagement Services	Management advisory services	\$	998,510.70
National Emergency Management Agency	CN4049322	15/04/2024	28/02/2025	Cost Modelling Advice and Related Services	Management advisory services	\$	999,710.00
Department of Defence	CN4050062	8/04/2024	31/07/2024	Management Advisory Services	Management advisory services	\$	519,528.03
Department of Health and Aged Care	CN4050302	12/04/2024	31/12/2024	Financial Management Advisory Services	Management advisory services	\$	388,555.00

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Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 51 (Senator B. Pocock)

A recent Department of Finance Procurement Policy Note titled 'Procurement of Goods and Services from PricewaterhouseCoopers' states that, as the result of a mutual agreement between the Department of Finance (Finance) and PwC Australia, PwC Australia will not bid for any new Commonwealth work at least until 1 December 2024.

Was this mutual agreement initiated by Finance or PwC Australia?

Response

The temporary cessation of new Commonwealth contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia) was proposed by the Department of Finance in recognition of the significant number of outstanding investigations still underway into PwC Australia and PwC International and the timeframes set out by PwC Australia in its response to the Independent Review of Governance, Culture and Accountability (Switkowski Review).

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Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 52 (Senator B. Pocock)

What date did Finance enter into the mutual agreement with PwC Australia?

Response

The Department of Finance reached mutual agreement with PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia on 22 April 2024, with guidance provided to agencies on 30 April 2024.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 53 (Senator B. Pocock)

Why was 1 December 2024 chosen as the earliest date for PwC Australia to resume bidding for new Commonwealth work?

Response

The 30 April 2024 Procurement Policy Note sets out that there are a significant number of outstanding investigations still underway into PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Australia and PwC International and the timeframes set out by PwC Australia in its response to the Independent Review of Governance, Culture and Accountability (Switkowski Review) are protracted.

The Department of Finance's (Finance's) examination of PwC's ethical soundness is ongoing. The timeframe of 1 December 2024 will allow PwC Australia to provide further detail regarding its implementation of the Switkowski Review recommendations and for the current investigations and inquiries to be further progressed. Finance will consider these factors in its examination.

Prior to the conclusion of the agreement period, Finance will provide an update to entities on its examination and the status of the cessation.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 54 (Senator B. Pocock)

How many meetings has the Minister for Finance had with PwC Australia in the past 12 months? When did they occur? What was discussed?

Response

The Minister for Finance has had no meetings with PwC Australia in the past 12 months.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 55 (Senator B. Pocock)

How many meetings has the Department of Finance had with PwC Australia in the past 12 months? When did they occur? What was discussed?

Response

In the last 12 months, the Department of Finance (Finance) has met with PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia) on 16 occasions (detailed below) to discuss PwC Australia's response to the Tax Practitioner Board matter and Finance's examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness.

- 22 May 2023
- 26 May 2023
- 23 June 2023
- 30 June 2023
- 4 July 2023
- 19 July 2023
- 24 August 2023
- 5 September 2023
- 21 September 2023
- 6 October 2023
- 10 November 2023
- 24 January 2024
- 6 March 2024
- 15 March 2024
- 10 April 2024
- 6 May 2024

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 56 (Senator B. Pocock)

The Australian Government Register of Lobbyists shows that PwC Australia recently engaged a lobbying firm run by two former senior ALP staffers. Were either Ms Lidija Ivanovski or Mr Gerard Richardson involved in discussions with Finance to reach this mutual agreement?

Response

No.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 57 (Senator B. Pocock)

Does the Department know whether PwC Australia intends to bid for government consulting work?

Response

In line with the mutual agreement between the Department of Finance (Finance) and PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia), PwC Australia will not bid for any new Commonwealth consulting work with Australian Government entities captured by the Commonwealth Procurement Rules until at least 1 December 2024. This includes, under Whole of Australian Government Panel arrangements and new contracts with a third party which include PwC Australia being appointed as subcontractors to that third party.

Finance's examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness is ongoing. The examination will inform future engagement with PwC Australia from 1 December 2024.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 58 (Senator B. Pocock)

Will the Department of Finance consider giving consulting work to PwC Australia from 1 December 2024?

Response

The Department of Finance's (Finance) examination of PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia) ethical soundness is ongoing. The examination will advise on arrangements for future engagement with PwC Australia from 1 December 2024.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 59 (Senator B. Pocock)

What kinds of work will the Department of Finance consider contracting PwC Australia to fulfil? For example: audit, assurance.

Response

The Department of Finance's (Finance) examination of PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia) ethical soundness is ongoing. The examination will advise on arrangements for future engagement with PwC Australia from 1 December 2024.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 60 (Senator B. Pocock)

The procurement note states that PwC Australia will temporarily cease new contract engagements with Australian Government entities captured by the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs). However, not all entities are captured by the CPRs, with 48/72 of corporate Commonwealth entities not required to follow them.

Does this mutual agreement cover all Commonwealth entities, including those not subject to the CPRs?

Response

Corporate Commonwealth entities (other than those prescribed in section 30 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*) and Commonwealth companies are not subject to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and are therefore not captured by the procurement policy note.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 61 (Senator B. Pocock)

Finance's examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness is ongoing.

Why has an agreement been made despite Finance's investigation into PwC's ethical soundness, as well as a 'significant number' of outstanding investigations by the Australian Federal Police and the Tax Practitioners Board, having not yet concluded?

Response

The agreement between the Department of Finance (Finance) and PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia), communicated in the April 2024 Procurement Policy Note, was reached because the Finance examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness is ongoing. One of the reasons the examination is ongoing is because of the significant number of outstanding investigations into PwC Australia and PwC International.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 62 (Senator B. Pocock)

Why has an agreement been made before the Senate inquiry into management and assurance of integrity by consulting services has released their final report and recommendations?

Response

The agreement between the Department of Finance (Finance) and PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia), communicated in the April 2024 Procurement Policy Note, was reached because the Finance examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness is ongoing.

Finance will consider the inquiry's recommendations when identifying if there are further opportunities to strengthen integrity and ethical conduct considerations in the Commonwealth Procurement Framework.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 63 (Senator B. Pocock)

Why has an agreement been made despite the damning, unanimous interim report 'PwC: The Cover-up Worsens the Crime' having found that PwC Australia has failed to genuinely change?

Response

The agreement between the Department of Finance (Finance) and PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC Australia), communicated in the April 2024 Procurement Policy Note, was reached because the Finance examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness is ongoing.

Finance will consider the inquiry's recommendations when identifying if there are further opportunities to strengthen integrity and ethical conduct in the Commonwealth Procurement Framework.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services (Consulting services)

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Written QoN 64 (Senator B. Pocock)

Is the Department of Finance confident that PwC has changed and will not repeat the actions that led to the tax leaks scandal?

Response

The May 2023 Procurement Policy Note reminded Commonwealth entities that the Commonwealth Procurement Rules states that officials must consider, among other things, a potential supplier's relevant experience and performance history when assessing value for money and factor these into the evaluation of tenders. This could include consideration of any unethical behaviour and/or deficiencies in performance under prior contracts. The reminder was in relation to all suppliers and potential suppliers to the Commonwealth, and did not specifically mention any supplier.

The 30 April 2024 Procurement Policy Note strengthens the May 2023 policy note as it explicitly names PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Australia and advises that they will not bid for work. The 30 April 2024 note sets out that there are a significant number of outstanding investigations still underway into PwC Australia and PwC International and the timeframes set out by PwC Australia in its response to the Independent Review of Governance, Culture and Accountability (Switkowski Review) are protracted.

The Department of Finance's (Finance's) examination of PwC Australia's ethical soundness is ongoing. The timeframe of 1 December 2024 will allow PwC Australia to provide further detail regarding its implementation of the Switkowski Review recommendations and for the current investigations and inquiries to be further progressed. Finance will consider these factors in its examination.

Prior to the conclusion of the agreement period, Finance will provide an update to entities on its examination and the status of the cessation.

***Inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services
(Consulting services)***