

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 190(a)

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, Date 19/02/2016

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
3. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - (a) List each, including name, cost and purpose
 - (b) If so, why?

Answer:

1. Details of the Department's consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more (including GST) are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au) in accordance with paragraphs 7.16 and 7.17 of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. While AusTender contains details of contracts valued at \$10,000 or more, it is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the Department to provide details of consultancies valued at less than \$10,000.
2. Please see response for question 1. In accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, where the Department plans an open approach to market for any upcoming consultancy, this is published on the AusTender website as part of the Department's Annual Procurement Plan.
3. Details of the Department's consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). These details include the procurement method. It is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the Department to provide details of why particular procurement methods were chosen or any details of consultancies valued at less than \$10,000.