

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Question No: 24

Topic: 2016 Census – alternative plan

Reference: Written (19 October 2016)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

In 2015, ABS CIO Pat Hadley said “I’m very conscience that for the 2016 census, the more that we deploy and adopt the technology, the more and more that the risk shifts to the technology and the technologies deployed. We’re being very, very cautious about examining every link in the chain, and that we thoroughly load test, performance test, and we’ve got an alternative plan should we need it”.

- 1) Was this before the IBM contract was signed?
- 2) In 2015, what were the alternative plans?

Answer:

Correction:

The context to the questions (quote) has an incorrect date.

The quotation was published on January 19th 2014 – not in 2015. [Published by Josh Taylor, ZDNet]

Responses to questions referencing the correct date

1) Yes.

2) In 2014, the alternative plans were to continue development of the eCensus on line form, hosting this in-house, and seeking a prime partner to develop and host the eCensus on line form via an approach to market.