

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: The Department of Social Services' 2013-14 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

Senator: Moore

Question reference number: F52

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. The Department of Social Services 2013/14 PAES did not contain the actual expenditure for each income support payment, for example page 50 of the PAES.
 - a) Was the Department of Finance aware of this before tabling?
 - b) Did the Department of Finance approve the form of the tables? If so, why did it?
2. Was the Department aware that the Department of Social Services is seeking appropriation in 2014-15 of just over \$111 million for "Decisions taken but not yet announced" (see page 25 of PAES)?
 - a) Is this usually the practice for appropriations relating to decisions taken but not yet announced?
 - b) If not, can you explain why this has been appropriated in this way? Would this line mean that once the decision is announced, where it gets appropriated to in terms of outcomes/programs will not be visible as it has already been appropriated for in the PAES? That is, for example if it is announced between now and the Budget, it wouldn't show up in the PBS?
3. Did Finance approve this presentation of appropriation for the Department of Social Services? If not, can you explain what advice you provided to the Department of Social Services in relation to that?

Answer:

1.
 - a) Yes. The Department of Social Services requested advice on how to report 2013-14 actuals where there had been a change in outcome-programme structure.
 - b) No. Finance issues guidance and templates to assist portfolios in preparing the PAES but does not approve the content.
2. Yes.
 - a) Yes.
 - b) At Budget, the item will be listed in the Department of Social Services' measures table in the Portfolio Budget Statements to align with the publication of the measure in Budget Paper 2.
3. No. Finance provides templates for entities to complete which include lines for measures "Decisions taken but not yet announced".