

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
9 February 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.3

Topic: Australian Tax Office building in Gosford – lease approval considerations

Senator: O'Neill

Question reference number: F28

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 92 & 95, 9 February 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 1 April 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator O'NEILL: You mentioned a number of considerations regarding approval for the ATO lease. That would be standard. What were the main considerations in regard to the approval of this particular lease?

Mr Edge: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware of the detail of the approval of the lease.

...

Senator O'NEILL: Did you approve the ATO's proposal to lease or purchase the property?

Senator Cormann: You asked that before and we have taken that on notice. We will provide an appropriate response in the appropriate time.

...

Senator O'NEILL: I am a little uncertain at this point, because of your answering, about your role in the specific approval of the proposal to lease the property at 20 Mann Street Gosford from the successful Doma Group. What was your role?

Senator Cormann: You asked that same question two questions ago, and I took it on notice.

...

Senator O'NEILL: We will see. Did the Secretary of Finance approve any aspect of the ATO's proposal?

Senator Cormann: We have already taken on notice the involvement of Finance and who the decision maker was in relation to these matters from the Finance point of view. That is just another variation of the same question that we have already taken on notice.

Senator O'NEILL: When you provide me with the answer will there be a clear indication of whether it was the Secretary of Finance who signed off, you who signed off yourself, Minister, or another representative of the government?

Senator Cormann: We have taken on notice who within Finance had what role in relation to this particular procurement, and I am very happy to assist further by specifying when any relevant decisions were made.

Answer:

Refer to response provided to F27, Additional Estimates 2015-16.