



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

CLERK OF THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
TEL: (02) 6277 3350
FAX: (02) 6277 3199
E-mail: clerk.sen@aph.gov.au

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24 May 2017

Ms Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

Budget Estimates Hearing – 22 May 2017
Answers to Questions on Notice

At the hearing on Monday, 22 May 2017, the Department of the Senate took questions on notice from Senator Kitching. The answers to these questions are attached. The answer to questions on notice from Senator Smith in relation to video conferencing will be provided shortly.

In relation to evidence about the debt to the Commonwealth of former senators Day and Culleton, the Senate department is responsible for pursuing the debt in relation to salary and electorate allowance paid. The amounts identified as recoverable were set out in letters to each former senator. During the hearing Senator Wong said "I assume it is the net figure." to which I replied "That is right." [Proof transcript, p.15] My response was incorrect. The figure identified is the pre-tax figure. I am advised that the amount recoverable is the total amount paid out, including tax.

Yours sincerely

(Richard Pye)

Question: 1
Topic: Paper procurement
Asked: 22 May 2017

- (a) **Senator KITCHING:** ...Are they weighted? Do you weight different criteria—some things as more important than others?

Ms Callinan: That is not quite the level of detail I am familiar with, and so I am happy to take that on notice. I do not think we do weighting, but I will take it on notice.

Senator KITCHING: That would be good.

- (b) **Senator KITCHING:** ...Going back to the tables that I have, QON 11 was relevant to the October 2016 assessment, but the answer to QON 5 clearly refers to the March 2017 assessment as having been completed. Was there a reason the March table was not provided, and can it be provided?

Ms Callinan: It certainly can be provided. The reason for it not being provided was that the request for the criteria and the results just attached to that October-November assessment and that information was not specifically asked for in relation to the most recent one. But I am happy to provide it.

- (c) **Senator KITCHING:** Okay. When did you provide the answer to question 11?

Ms Callinan: It should say at the top of the question—no, it does not. I would have to check the detail as to when we submitted that one.

Senator KITCHING: Thank you...

- (d) **Senator KITCHING:** ...Is the testing undertaken solely by departmental officers or are senators' officers involved? Is there a feedback mechanism?

Ms Callinan: The testing itself is undertaken by our departmental officers. I believe that we may have or do run them through the printers that are used by senators. I would have to check that detail.

Senator KITCHING: If you could.

Ms Callinan: To my knowledge, we have not received feedback about the quality of paper. I can check that as well

Answer:

- (a) No weighting is applied to the criteria.
- (b) The assessment table for the March 2017 assessment is attached. Some minor adjustments have been made to the March 2017 assessment table to improve clarity, however, the criteria used in the assessment were the same as the October/November 2016 assessment. The amended Commonwealth Procurement Rules, which came into effect on 1 March 2017, were also taken into account.

- (c) The answer to QON 11 from Additional Estimates was submitted on 12 / 4/ 17.
- (d) Paper testing is undertaken by departmental officers on the production copiers and a desktop printer in the print room, as well on a standard medium sized colour multi-function device. While senators' officers are not involved in the testing, the printers that are used in the testing are similar to those in senators' suites. Feedback from senators and their staff is always welcome and is recorded. We are not aware of any feedback in relation to the performance of the current paper used.

March 2017 assessment
24/5/17

Paper Testing

Texture Opacity Lamination Toner Coverage Paper Dust Static Cutting Whiteness Cracking Environmental credentials Government policy (e.g. anti-dumping, etc.) Comments Total score Pricing ex GST Per Ream Value for Money Ranking

Name of Paper	Texture	Opacity	Lamination	Toner Coverage	Paper Dust	Static	Cutting	Whiteness	Cracking	Environmental credentials	Government policy (e.g. anti-dumping, etc.)	Comments	Total score	Pricing ex GST Per Ream	Value for Money	Ranking
Impact 100% recycled	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	5	3	In smaller printers if paper is inserted the incorrect way to that is outlined in the packaging then curling can be an issue.	39	\$4.09	9.54	1
Reflex 100% recycled	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	Carbon Neutral FSC* certified	39	\$5.55	7.08	6
Staples 100% recycled	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	5	3	FSC certified	37	\$5.45	6.79	9
Now 100% Recycled White	3	3	3	2	4	4	4	2	3	5	3	Very smooth - Toner coverage not great	36	\$5.24	6.87	8
Staples 20% recycled	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3		35	\$4.38	7.99	2
Staples Carbon Neutral	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	Toner showthrough is at the bottom scale compared with other papers tested, The toner coverage is minimum standard and this is to do with the finish of the face of the paper.		\$3.94	7.87	3
Reflex Carbon Neutral	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3		40	\$5.24	7.63	4
Reflex 50% Recycled Carbon Neutral pure white	4	4	3	4	4	4	2	4	3	4	3		39	\$5.79	6.74	10
Reflex Ultra White	4	4	3	4	4	4	2	4	3	3	3	Carbon Neutral	38	\$5.24	7.25	5
Australian 80% Recycled	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	Carbon Neutral colour off due to recycled content	35	\$5.27	6.64	12
Now	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	blotchy finish	32	\$4.56	7.02	7
Double A	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	very smooth good toner coverage	34	\$5.09	6.68	11
Tudor 10% Recycled	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		37	\$5.62	6.58	13

Ranking 5 = Excellent 4 = Good 3 = Average 2 = Minimum Acceptable 1 = Unacceptable

It was decided that the department would use 100% recycled paper in June 2015.

Based on the ranking total score when each paper was tested and the price that was evaluated as part of the WOG contract the impact paper still represents value for money for the department.

- Country of Origin
- Impact - Austria
- Reflex - Australia
- Staples - Australia
- Now 100% Recycled - Australia
- Staples 20% - Australia
- Reflex Carbon Neutral - Australia
- Reflex Carbon Neutral - Australia
- Reflex 50% Recycled Carbon Neutral pure white - Australia
- Reflex Ultra White - Australia
- Staples 50% Recycled - Australia
- Australian 80% Recycled - Australia
- Now - Australia
- Double A - Thailand
- Tudor 10% Recycled - Australia

- Environmental
- 100% Recycled = 5
- Less Recycled 0% - 49% = 3
- Less Recycled 50% - 99% = 4
- Virgin Carbon Neutral FSC certified = 4
- Carbon Neutral = 3
- Virgin FSC certified = 3
- Virgin = 2
- /Virgin Acceptable = 1