

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
18 October 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 2/2.1
Topic: Digital Transformation Office restructure

Senator: McAllister

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: I understand that last Friday the Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation announced the formation of a new Digital Transformation Agency that will be responsible for the ICT policy and procurement functions currently managed by the Department of Finance. Is that correct?

Senator Cormann: That is right, yes.

Senator McALLISTER: Last night I had the opportunity to talk to some of the officers from the Digital Transformation Office and they indicated that the first they knew of the change was when the assistant minister announced it. So what consultation took place with Finance about this restructure?

Senator Cormann: We have obviously been part of the process of making relevant decisions by government. Finance, it will not surprise you, sits around the table with me when relevant decisions are made.

Senator McALLISTER: When was the—

Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice. Genuinely, I mean—

Senator McALLISTER: I have not asked my question yet!

Senator Cormann: I thought you were going to say: when was the decision made?

Senator McALLISTER: I will ask a more general question. Was this contemplated before the election or after the election?

Senator Cormann: A decision was made after the election. When this started to be contemplated I would have to have a look at.

Senator McALLISTER: So you will come back to us with a date of when discussions commenced?

Senator Cormann: Yes.

Senator McALLISTER: Is the restructure underpinned by a review or any sort of internal process?

Senator Cormann: Yes. It is the result of an internal process and it is a result of decisions of government. All decisions of government of this nature follow a deliberative process. We are obviously working our way through giving effect to it.

Senator McALLISTER: That review took place prior to the election?

Senator Cormann: In terms of the timing, I would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator McALLISTER: I cannot find the speech that Mr Taylor gave.

...

Senator Cormann: I do not have a copy with me. I am happy to provide it to you on notice. I would like you to read Mr Taylor's speeches.

Answer:

Finance was provided the opportunity to comment on the proposal to form the Digital Transformation Agency in September 2016.

Minister Taylor's speech to the Australian Information Industry Association on 14 October 2016 at the National Press Club is now available online at:

<http://ministers.dpmc.gov.au/taylor/2016/aiia-industry-luncheon>