

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 1.6

Question No. 228

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

- 1) When was the decision made to axe the National Crime Prevention Fund? Who made the decision to cut the NCPF?
- 2) On what basis was the NCPF axed?
- 3) Has the department notified recipients of the NCPF that they will no longer receive funding?
- 4) What reasons did the department put forward to recipients when informing them of cuts to the program?
- 5) Many organisations have moved to set up projects which are now under review, including employing staff. How will the Government compensate for the delay and potential scrapping of grants to organisations?
- 6) Has the department provided assistance to cover any debts incurred?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- 1) The Government announced prior to the election that it would re-direct funding from the National Crime Prevention Fund (NCPF) to the Safer Streets programme.
- 2) Only one funding agreement was entered into under the NCPF, the other commitments were made just prior to or during the caretaker period. The one commitment with a funding agreement was honoured.
- 3) The Minister for Justice wrote to organisations on 13 December 2013 to advise them of the situation.
- 4) The Minister noted that offers of funding were made by the former Government but that no funding agreement had been entered into by the former Government with recipients whose grants were not proceeding, expressed sympathy for those organisations but advised that the Government's first priority was to honour the commitments it had made under the plan for Safer Streets to equally worthy organisations.
- 5) The NCPF Programme Guidelines clearly state that organisations should not make any financial commitments, in expectation of receiving funding, until a funding agreement had been executed.
- 6) No.