

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Outcome 2, Output 2.3.1**

**Topic: Use of consultants**

**Question reference number: F1**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 7-8, 24 February 2009**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009**

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**Senator Coonan asked:**

I am not sure, but perhaps this might be a question for the minister: how is cabinet made aware of the use of consultants and how is cabinet able to judge the finance minister's promise to cut consultants being implemented?

Mr Lewis—I think we would have to take that one on notice.

**Answer:**

The cut in the use of consultants, announced on 2 March 2007, has already been implemented as it was incorporated in the one-off additional two per cent efficiency dividend, as announced by Mr Tanner on 22 November 2007.

Cabinet may be made broadly aware of the use of consultants in relation to particular projects when it considers submissions and new policy proposals which involve significant expenditure on consultancies. This is not an automatic process – it would only typically occur when the delivery mechanism becomes an important part of the policy discussion and consultants play a large role in delivering the project that is under consideration.