

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates Hearings 2002-2003 – 28 May 2003

Question: F4

Outcome 1 - Sustainable Government Finances, Output 1.1.2 - Financial Reporting

Topic: Value of CRF receipts and payments

Hansard Page: F&PA 269

Senator Conroy asked:

I am just seeing whether it is possible, and I would be interested as to whether in your opinion it was a valuable thing to get, given the potential cost and effort you would have to go to in order to get it.

Answer:

As Mr McPhee stated (F&PA 268) "Given the basis of the accounts now in the general government sector, it is probably not worth the cost and the effort to get to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) position through the receipts and payments route."

While technically possible, the disclosure of gross flows in and out of the CRF would require significant effort in terms of time and resources. Given that the existing Accrual Information Management System is scheduled to be replaced following the Budget Estimates and Framework Review, we do not consider it would be cost effective to change the existing system.

Against this background, we will continue to derive the balance of the CRF on the basis of financial information provided by agencies in the Budget context and in annual financial statements.