

Budget Estimates 2003-04
Questions on Notice Index
Finance and Administration Portfolio

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F1	DOFA	Ray	254	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—That raises the question as to why you were not given it directly in the first place.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—I am willing to take that on notice and have a look at it in some detail as to the reason. I am not aware of that prior history.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F2	DOFA	Faulkner	257	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I am not suggesting; I am asking. Let us nail down when the legal advice was sought on the Public Works Committee issue. When was the advice sought? That is a process issue for you.</p> <p>Mr Jackson—I do not know the exact date. We could get you an exact date if you would like.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F3	DOFA	Ray	258	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Before we move on from this issue, Dr Watt, you have advice that you are exempt. Do you have to follow that advice or do you have the option of going to the Public Works Committee now this project has gone from 9½ months out to 36 months?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think that is a matter for the minister rather than for officials.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Would you like to refer that to Senator Minchin for some material report and answer back on notice?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Will do.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F4	DOFA	Conroy	268-69	<p>Senator CONROY—Is there a value to that? You have to do a cost-benefit analysis of these things. Is there a value to the information it would provide?</p> <p>Mr McPhee—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 CRF position through the receipts and payments route. We could have a look at it, if you like.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—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 to it.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to take that on notice.</p>	Answered 26/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F5	DOFA	Conroy	269-70	<p>Senator CONROY—Is it possible to provide a reconciliation between the projected receipts and payments to the CRF to projected GFS budget revenues and expenses of the cash balance before the fact in the budget papers? We were talking about after the fact and then we got into other areas where you just do not have the information. Is it possible to provide that before the fact?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Kerwin—The answer is that it is virtually impossible or very difficult to do that without upending systems across the Commonwealth or putting an impost on agencies and things like that.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—But you have announced a string of changes that should allow you to calculate these numbers into the future.</p> <p>Mr Kerwin—I think I would need to look at that.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to come back to you with that information.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F6	DOFA	Conroy	275	<p>Senator CONROY—I was going to add to that level of reporting process by finding out whether that information will be available to the parliament. Maybe I can read it out for you. Would that help?</p> <p>Mr Prior—Currently that information is to be provided to government. There has not been a decision made at this time as to whether it would go further than that.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Could it be made available? You can take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to take that on notice.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F7	DOFA	Conroy	278	<p>Senator CONROY—Since the introduction of the FMA there has been no legal requirement. You only went back a couple of years. Before FMA, was there a legal requirement?</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—I would have to check. As I said, I think it was by virtue of the guidelines.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Convention and guidelines. You would hope that they were complying with them.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can check and get back to you.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F8	DOFA	Conroy	281	<p>Senator CONROY—Are there any instances where major assets have been sold without an independent valuation?</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—I am not aware of any.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Could you take on notice whether any agencies have and what assets they were, if possible? Have you sustained some inappropriate losses—as you describe them—on this basis in the past?</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—I am not aware of any.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Could you take that on notice for us, just in case there have been some over the last few years.</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—Yes, I will take that on notice.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F9	DOFA	Conroy	289	<p>Senator CONROY—Did any Commonwealth agency state that they had an explicit guarantee by the Commonwealth without following the approval process?</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—I am not aware of any.</p> <p>Mr McPhee—I am not sure that we can get you a quick answer on that one. Can we take that on notice?</p>	Answered 26/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F10	DOFA	Conroy	291	<p>Senator CONROY—I guess that takes us back to the question of whether or not it has an exemption from these reporting rules.</p> <p>Mr Staun—It has had an exemption since 1998 and under the FMOs last year we were not required to report business operations.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Dr Watt, why does it have an exemption?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I am not entirely sure why it has an exemption. In the very old days of the trust fund, when DAS did run a large number of its business operations through that, it may have been quite reasonable to consider this to be a business and therefore for it to have an exemption. We are happy to look at that and come back to you.</p>	Answered 13/10/03
F11	DOFA	Conroy	295	<p>Senator CONROY—So there was no overlap per se. When was the first meeting of the IDC?</p> <p>Mr Prior—As I say, I do not have those details on me but I can certainly get them to you. My recollection is that it was in the early part of the year, in April or May—around that time. It certainly started properly after budget; that is when the real work started.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—At the May budget estimates, it appeared that there was still work being done and that the report was going to be released—that is what Dr Watt said—whereas you are saying now that, with the formation of the IDC and going in the other direction, essentially they have wound down. I am trying to get a fix on the timing. There seems to be a small contradiction.</p> <p>Dr Watt—As I said, we are happy to check the timing. You asked me in February where the process was at. I indicated that the subcommittee had not yet finalised its report, although it was in an advanced stage. I said it would go to the full committee of MAC for discussion. I said there might be some comment others wished to make and other views to take on and so forth and that there might need to be further work done.</p>	Answered F&PA 299 Answered 8/8/03
F12	DOFA	Conroy	300	<p>Senator CONROY—If anyone else from Australia was present, I would be interested in that. Were all 32 OECD nations present? I presume that it would take longer than four hours to go around the room if they were.</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—I can give you an idea. I can't—</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I am happy for you to take it on notice, if you like, and you can let us know who was there.</p> <p>Mr Prior—Who was at the presentation? All the OECD countries: France, England, America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia—</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—The IMF, Eurostat—</p> <p>Mr Prior—the World Bank—we can give you a list.</p>	Answered 26/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F13	DOFA	Conroy	301	<p>Senator CONROY—Are the notes that you spoke from publicly available?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Is there a record of the discussion?</p> <p>Mr Prior—Minutes of the meetings are kept and I understand that they are publicly available.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Are they available?</p> <p>Mr Prior—I understand so; I have not seen them in the sense of the OECD—</p> <p>Mr Kauffmann—The OECD took the minutes.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I was not aware that they were a secret organisation.</p> <p>Mr Prior—No.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy, if they are publicly available, to see that they are made available to you, Senator. That is a matter for the OECD, not for us.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I understand that such previous presentations have been made available on your web site.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are also happy to look at making available what Mr Kauffman and Mr Prior said are discussions.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F14	DOFA	Conroy	303	<p>Senator CONROY—I have not actually asked one. I was just running through the information in F5. Could you please explain what are the ‘net advances, loans and other investing cash’ which are worth 4 billion?</p> <p>Mr Ash—Do you mean question F6 about the use of proceeds of asset sales—table 1?</p> <p>Dr Watt—That is why we were having trouble locating it. It is F6.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—My apologies.</p> <p>Mr Ash—That includes, for example, the movement in the Higher Education Contribution Scheme, the student loans and the loans to states, territories and Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Is it possible to get a breakdown of the components?</p> <p>Mr Ash—With the HECS scheme, there was a movement of about \$4.4 billion. With the loans to states and territories, there was a movement in the other direction of \$5.7 billion. We are getting further information on the remainder.</p>	Answered 13/10/03
F15	DOFA	Conroy	303	<p>Senator CONROY—Can you explain why the proceeds from the asset sales programs, excluding property and developments, are reported at \$46.5 billion in the answer to question F5—or it may be question F6—when DOFA’s web site lists asset sales over the same period worth \$51 billion?</p> <p>Mr Ash—If we go back to the question that this relates to, the \$46.5 billion is the asset sales program itself, which is part of the \$58.1 billion figure you discussed at the last estimates period. Can you tell us specifically what your question about the new web site relates to?</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I was referring to the summary on the DOFA web site of the asset sales of past projects.</p> <p>Mr Ash—We will have to take that one on notice.</p>	Answered 8/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F16	DOFA	Conroy	305	<p>Dr Watt—A moment ago you mentioned a figure of \$51 billion.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Yes, \$51 billion. That is my rough total.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think we are getting a different number.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Can I run down what I have put in and then perhaps you can say, ‘No, this one should have been in and this one should have been out’? It will only take a few seconds.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Why don’t you do that?</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Commonwealth Funds Management; Avalon Airport; phase 1 airports, Dasfleet; AIDC; ANRC; DAS; HLIC; the former McLeod Repatriation Hospital site; Australia Multimedia Enterprise Ltd; phase 2 airports; Auscript; National Transmission Network; Australian River Co; ADI Removals; ARAP; Essendon; NRC, in New South Wales; FreightCorp; Sydney airport; ComBank 3; and Telstra T1 and T2. The repatriation hospital site might possibly fall into the property category.</p> <p>Dr Watt—It may. We will go away and turn the handle on the calculator again.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Did I miss any? Just for the record, I get that to total \$51.039 billion.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will go away and check our calculations again but when we use our calculator we get—</p> <p>Mr Yarra—We are getting \$46 billion on that sheet.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will go away and crosscheck our numbers and come back to you.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F17	DOFA	Conroy	308-09	<p>Senator CONROY—Yes. Have these purchases been made subject to the 15 per cent and more recently 11 per cent hurdle rate that applied to the property sales. Do we know?</p> <p>Mr Ash—I could not answer that.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We would need someone from the property area to answer that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I am happy to put that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator CONROY—Should government property purchases be expected to generate annual income of 15 per cent of value of the asset, given that was the benchmark that the government had? I am happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to do that but remember, though, that in the Commonwealth property principles there are a number of individual circumstances that apply to the continued ownership of properties, not just the hurdle rate of return. For example, we have kept property in the parliamentary triangle we would not subject to a hurdle rate.</p>	Answered 8/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F18	DOFA	Conroy	309	<p>Senator CONROY—I am pleased to hear it. You might need to take this one on notice. Can you tell which of these purchases of property, plant and equipment generates actual or imputed income, like rent, and which are depreciating assets that will eventually be written off. I am assuming defence will fall into the depreciation category pretty quickly, especially since there has been a war since we probably bought them.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will need to check the detail on that, but we can make a couple of broad comments. Simon, can you enunciate the general principle?</p> <p>Mr Ash—If you look at the kinds of assets the Defence Force purchases, it is probably depreciation. For Defence Housing Authority it is going to be houses, so that will be depreciated. For Finance it is going to be property—I suspect predominantly overseas estate—and that will be depreciated. For the CSIRO it is going to be probably more equipment than buildings per se and again would therefore be depreciated. The vast bulk is depreciation.</p> <p>Dr Watt—But we will take that on notice and give you an answer.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F19	DOFA	Faulkner	317	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you release that figure without getting the approval of the party with whom you have contracted in relation to the confidentiality clause? Or is the confidentiality clause not relevant to this?</p> <p>Dr Watt—This was only one of 26 scenarios—that is why. If this had been the subject of serious negotiations with parties or in a contract, we would be looking at it in a different light, but this is one of 26 possible options.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—So the other 25 could be made public too? Would you take that question on notice?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We could have a look at that.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Thank you. I would appreciate it if you could provide the other 25.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F20	DOFA	Ray	317	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—In this Prague spring of transparency, you wouldn't want to give me the figure for how much you paid out Walters for the contract?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—That probably is commercial-in-confidence. As I say, it is commercial-in-confidence but, if we reach a point where there is a new tenderer in place and a contract signed and Walters have no objection to the release of that figure, then we would be happy to look at that.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F21	DOFA	Ray	325	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—On page 75 there is mention of a one-off one-year savings measure as applied to the department of foreign affairs of \$0.5 million. What is that about?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I would need to check this and that can be done fairly quickly, but I think this reflects a saving on depreciation they would otherwise have got. We will check and come back to you on that.</p>	Answered F&PA 340

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F22	DOFA	Ray	325,	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—With the exception of the parliamentary departments, what are the savings measures that have been instituted to fund this \$321 million? I have taken out the \$52 million over the forward estimates for revenue. What savings measures, other than for the parliamentary departments, have been made to fund these?</p> <p>Dr Watt—Again, we can try to come back to you fairly quickly on that. That is not transparent from this table. There is an issue about the extent to which departments may have absorbed or offset part of the cost of these measures.</p>	The Minister again makes this undertaking on F&PA 331 Part answered on F&PA 340
F23	DOFA	Ray	340	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—You have prompted another question: in the out years—</p> <p>Senator Minchin—They bid for the money, of course, for the security measures.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—So what we can say for a start is six departments were not asked to absorb, that we know of. There are nine mentioned in that list.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can keep seeing if there are further ones, Senator. This is just a quick look.</p>	Combined Answer F22 & F23 8/8/03
F24	DOFA	Conroy	349	<p>Senator CONROY—Could you just give me the increase in debt, not net debt?</p> <p>Mr Olliffe—I can't tell you from this table because it is a net debt table.</p> <p>Dr Watt—If you wish to get the increase in gross measures we can undertake to provide those for you, Senator. We don't have them to hand. We can see if we can get them tonight. Those numbers are generated by the AOFM, not by the department of finance. We do take them, therefore, from the AOFM—we're not pretending to be experts—but we can get them from them. We may have to take that on notice.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F25	DOFA	Conroy	349	<p>Senator CONROY—Certainly. The AOFM annual report states that the market value of debt as at 30 June 2002 was \$6.3 billion higher than the face value of debt—that is the market value of \$60 billion less face value of \$53.7 billion. Can you confirm that the full \$6.3 billion has been recognised in net worth.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Senator, your comparison is between face value and market value.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I have the AOFM report, if you would like it.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Senator, there are a number of different concepts here.</p> <p>Senator CONROY—I am happy for you to have a think about it and we can move on to another question.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think we need to take that one on notice and come back to you. We will try to come back to you tonight. In some senses we need a little access to the AOFM's expertise on this. As you say, it is a question of which particular component of government securities goes into net worth. That is the issue. It is not the face value, Senator, I would not have thought, under any circumstances.</p>	Answered 8/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F26	DOFA	Shery	368	<p>Senator SHERRY—The context was that Senator Kemp had to respond to a Democrat request for the costing of same sex couple application to the public sector schemes, but the origin of the figures might have been the Institute of Actuaries.</p> <p>Mr Hutson—I think the work you might be referring to was work that was undertaken as part of a Senate committee report on superannuation entitlements under the same sex couples bill 2000. At that stage the report of the committee included an estimate from the Institute of Actuaries of Australia that the total cost of extending death benefits to same sex couples in the Commonwealth schemes would be \$300 million to \$400 million in present value terms. But we have not done any verification of those figures.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I will double-check this, because I am sure Senator Kemp provided the committee or the Democrats with some figures on that.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to check that.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Just give us an update.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are not aware of anything other than this but we will check that, and that picks up my earlier comments on the subject.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F27	DOFA ComSuper CSS PSS	Sherry	369	<p>Senator SHERRY—That was going to be my next question—the dollar figures. What information can you provide, Mr Bator?</p> <p>Mr Bator—In numbers, \$212 million has been processed for the year to March.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—That is for this year?</p> <p>Mr Bator—In terms of assessments, yes.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Do you have figures for the previous three financial years?</p> <p>Mr Bator—No.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Take that on notice. Is that for all four schemes?</p> <p>Mr Bator—Yes, that is for all the schemes.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—You do not have a breakdown available?</p> <p>Mr Bator—No, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—You can take that on notice. You would not have this because you don't have it by the total number of members but you can take it on notice: how many members in each scheme paid all of their surcharge liabilities on an ongoing basis or paid part of their liabilities on an ongoing basis or allowed their debts to accrue? I assume you don't have that?</p> <p>Mr Bator—We will provide that.</p>	Combined answer with F28 8/9/03
F28	DOFA ComSuper CSS PSS	Sherry	370	<p>Senator SHERRY—What was the value of surcharge debt liabilities paid on an ongoing basis in each scheme in those years? Again, can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Bator—Yes.</p>	Combined answer with F27 8/9/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F29	DOFA	Ray	376	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Who did the scoping studies? Did the one firm or a combination of firms do the three studies?</p> <p>Dr Watt—All outside advisers are put out to tender, so you have different firms involved in different scoping studies, for example in relation to both legal advice and business advice and in relation to any other specialist advice we might need for that scoping study.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—We do not have ready to hand the individual advisers in relation to each of the scoping studies. We can get that for you; it is public information.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—All right, but I think we will restrict it to DHA. We will not worry about the other two. I take it from what Dr Watt is saying that there might have been two or three outside firms doing different aspects.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F30	DOFA	Ray	376	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—I do not know if you have at hand what the cost of the DHA scoping inquiry was.</p> <p>Mr Yarra—We can get that for you very quickly.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Have you got a ballpark figure?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We prefer to get an accurate number, Senator. We can get that.</p>	Answered F&PA 385
F31	DOFA	Ray	378	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—And we think the ratio of DHA-owned property assets has gone down, according to Dr Watt, from 28 per cent to 25 per cent.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—Can we take that on notice? My general view is that you release information unless there is a very good reason not to. I would just like to consult with DHA as to whether there is any good reason not to publicly disclose the actual targeted figure. They are responsible for managing down their property and I think it is proper that we ensure that there is no good reason, from a market sensitive point of view, why that figure should not be released. In other words, prima facie I would be happy to release it, but I would like to check with DHA whether there is any reason not to.</p>	Answered 8/8/03
F32	DOFA	Forshaw	380	<p>Senator FORSHAW—The advice I have—and I am trying to verify this—is that the bridge was closed around about 13 July 2001.</p> <p>Mr Jackson—If you have the document in front of you I would not contradict that point.</p> <p>Senator FORSHAW—This is advice I have received from residents.</p> <p>Mr Jackson—That can be confirmed.</p> <p>Senator FORSHAW—Yes, please do.</p>	Answered 26/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F33	DOFA	Forshaw	383	<p>Senator FORSHAW—But what you are saying is not true, is it—that is, that the councils were asking for a four-lane highway or something substantially different? What they were after was having the footbridge replaced. Didn't the Commonwealth take the position initially that it would do something less than meet the full cost of that bridge and, subsequently, after some months, eventually agree to meet all the costs? Is that true or not?</p> <p>Mr Jackson—A set of legally drafted documents—you have draft 1, draft 2 and draft 3, which is the final one—may evolve through and reflect the various states of negotiations at the time. As I mentioned, there were discussions and suggestions from one of the councils that they have the bridge attached to the rail bridge further down. That was not like for like and may have been substantially more expensive. Therefore, the Commonwealth would not have met the full costs of that; it would have contributed to the costs of that. The deed at the time may have reflected that, and I would have to take that on notice to check exactly what the status was.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F34	DOFA	Forshaw	383	<p>Senator FORSHAW—The position that was adopted by council in its first draft agreement was taken after the concept design for the new bridge had been completed—replacing the existing footbridge, not some alternative structure further down the river.</p> <p>Mr Jackson—Just to clarify, you said the draft agreement prepared by the council reflected that situation.</p> <p>Senator FORSHAW—No, the draft heads of agreement that was submitted to the council—the first draft—was subsequent to the concept design having been prepared to put in the new footbridge. So it has nothing at all to do with some alternative proposition that may have been floated at the time by one of the councils. We are talking about the bridge that is going to be built now and that was always in contemplation.</p> <p>Mr Jackson—I would have to check the date of that first draft agreement that you have—you have that as an advantage over me. I am happy to advise further on that if the two dates correspond.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F35	DOFA	Faulkner	392	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Let me ask this question: is it a Commonwealth asset? If fudging these definitions is part of this process, I just want to understand.</p> <p>Dr Watt—The question I think you need to ask, Senator, is: is the ANU shown on the Commonwealth's balance sheet?</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—You can answer that question, if you would like to. I asked whether it was a Commonwealth asset.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Then the question is whether or not it is shown on its balance sheet.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—You can reinterpret my question; I appreciate that level of expertise.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will see if we can get you an answer, Senator.</p>	Part answered F&PA 393
F36	DOFA	Ray	394	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—I understand all that. There is no agreement—we accept that. We accept you are in negotiations. But what we have been told is that in fact you cannot pay because you are prohibited by the FMA. That begs the question: when did that cut in? Suddenly in the year 2000? Were you acting unlawfully, illegally or improperly prior to that? That is what we were asking. So now we are asking what part of the FMA prohibits you making these payments?</p> <p>Dr Watt—It might be useful if we tried to give you an answer on notice on this.</p>	Answered 26/8/03 Combined ans with F37

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F37	DOFA	Ray	395	Senator ROBERT RAY —I want to make clear the questions we would like answered on notice, as we want to reflect a bit more on this. Does the FMA Act prohibit the payment of these things without the appropriate agreements being entered into? Does this imply that, in the absence of an agreement, previous payments are vulnerable to question so that you do not have to commit yourself too far? These are the sorts of things we would like to know. And if you put provisions in your accounts for the payment of this, are they identifiable in the budget statement?	Answered 26/8/03 Combined ans with F36
F38	DOFA	Faulkner	396	Senator FAULKNER —That is a very honourable attempt at spin, and it may be right for all I know, but it may not be. So that I understand the spirit of this, Dr Watt, would you agree to table the letter—the letter of December 2002, from recollection; the one that went to the Chief Executive of the Chief Minister’s Department in the ACT? Dr Watt —I would like to reread that letter. I have not had a chance to do that in the run-up to estimates. Subject to that rereading, yes, I would agree. Senator ROBERT RAY —I think you will need the permission of the recipient as well, on this occasion—I have to say out of fairness. Usually, for correspondence between governments, both sides need to agree to release it. Dr Watt —I will certainly ask Mr Tonkin whether he is willing to release it. Senator FAULKNER —Thank you.	Answered F&PA 428-29 (Letter tabled)
F39	DOFA	Ray	401	Senator Abetz —The next question is whether or not names were actually entered into the system. Mr Sweeney —My preliminary advice is that no names appeared but I would like to confirm that and come back to you with the answer. Senator ROBERT RAY —Take that one on notice. Could you also take on notice—and I am not seeking any individual names—if there are names recorded, the sort of categories that they represent. Quite clearly, one of the names in there could be Prince so-and-so who you had in there for two weeks going to the Carlton hotel et cetera, all of which would be totally irrelevant today. But if there were Family Court judges or others, I do not want to know their names, I just want to know whether the broad category exists with the names in it. I am not going to ask about an individual here. Ms Mason —Senator, we understand what you want and we shall get it as quickly as possible.	Answered 26/8/03
F40	DOFA	Ray & Faulkner	401	Senator ROBERT RAY —What happened to the two satellite navigation units that were retrieved in Canberra? Mr Sweeney —My understanding is that they have been retained in the ACT depot—again, I would have to confirm that—but they are not in use. Senator ROBERT RAY —They have not been on-sold. Mr Sweeney —Yes. Senator FAULKNER —And the information on them has been erased? Mr Sweeney —I would have to confirm that.	Answered 26/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F41	DOFA	Faulkner	405	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Do you know the category of client for that single name?</p> <p>Mr Sweeney—No, I do not. I would have to take that on notice and confirm it. For your benefit I can add that the two units removed from vehicles in the ACT are currently in secure storage at the ACT Comcar depot.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F42	DOFA	Faulkner	411	<p>Senator FAULKNER—To narrow it down, Mr Edge, why don't we just deal with the calendar year at the Melbourne Commonwealth parliamentary offices?</p> <p>Mr Edge—Is your question: how many security breaches have we been notified of?</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Edge—I would have to take that on notice; I do not have that information in front of me. I should also point out that PSCC is responsible for, effectively, what you might call 'perimeter security' at the Commonwealth parliamentary offices. Under a contract arrangement they station the APS guards.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Take the number on notice. Now could you please inform the committee about those that you are aware of and are briefed on?</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F43	DOFA	Faulkner	421-22	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Are you able to indicate whether, in relation to the staff members in question, travel allowance was paid to Mr McConnell and Mr Damian Callachor on or around 11 March 2003?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Taylor—Travel allowance was paid.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—In or around that period.</p> <p>Mr Taylor—Yes.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Could you provide the committee with some more detail please?</p> <p>Mr Taylor—I do not have the details with me. I can certainly check on that.</p>	Part answered F&PA 428
F44	DOFA	Faulkner	424	<p>Senator FAULKNER—We have the invoice, but what do we know about the actual booking information? Do we know who booked this car?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Mason—Senator, coming to your later question as to who booked the vehicle, I am not sure this is the same answer but it was rented by Mr Peter McConnell. Whether or not he was the person who made the booking, I am not certain from the material that is before us at the moment.</p>	Answered 26/8/03
F45	DOFA	Faulkner	425	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Ms Mason, what I don't understand—but there may be a perfectly logical explanation—is why, at the top of this invoice and at the bottom of this invoice, the name shown is 'The Senate', 'Commonwealth Government'. That is on the payment slip at the bottom. 'Please tear off this stub and return with your remittance. The Senate. Commonwealth Government.' That appears at the bottom. At the top it is addressed to 'The Senate, Commonwealth Government'. Senator Abetz properly makes the point, of course, that Synergy is located here at Parliament House on the Senate side of the building. We are not located at 55 Blackall Street Barton, but that may be the explanation. I am just trying to understand the process.</p> <p>Ms Mason—We are checking, Senator. I do not know, but I hope to know very shortly. As soon as I do, I will pass that information on to you.</p>	Answered 26/8/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F46	DOFA	Faulkner	425	Senator FAULKNER —Ms Mason, while some details are being checked, I have one other question that perhaps you could respond to at a later stage. I notice miscellaneous charges are on the invoice too. It is only a small sum of \$34.31, but you might be able to explain what it is, please. Senator Abetz —It may well be insurance, but we will check it out.	Answered 26/8/03
F47	DOFA	Ray	427	Senator ROBERT RAY —It is a serious question that a whip's assistant for the Labor Party in the Senate gets a secretary assistant but the good old National Party—your close friends and colleagues—get a clerk when you have only got three other colleagues. Why is that? Senator Abetz —They might be living in hope, I do not know. But I understand that situation has been around for a while. What I will undertake to do is have a look at it and see what the history of it is and what justifications were around at the time.	Answered 26/8/03
F48	DOFA	Ray	427	Senator ROBERT RAY —With regard to the government members secretariat, you are responsible for their resourcing but not their activities—is that right? Senator Abetz —Yes. Senator ROBERT RAY —Who is responsible for their activities that can be scrutinised by this committee or any other committee of parliament? Senator Abetz —I am not sure of that, but it is not within my portfolio. Senator ROBERT RAY —Whose portfolio is it? Then I might be able to find out who would be responsible for their activities, not their resourcing. We know you are in charge of their resourcing. Senator Abetz —We can have a look at that.	Answered 8/9/03
F49	DOFA	Ray	428	Senator ROBERT RAY —What you could take on notice is: who made the change, when they made the change, what the nature of the change was and whether it was before or after apprehension?	Answered 26/8/03
F50	DOFA	Faulkner	428	Senator FAULKNER —I do not know. In relation to the bookings on 5 March and 12 March, you have taken on notice, amongst a range of questions, who made the bookings. I would also like you to take on notice the name or account of which parliamentarian bookings were made in. Senator ROBERT RAY —Not invoiced but booked to. Mr Barnes —Yes.	Answered 26/8/03
F51	AEC	Faulkner	441	Senator FAULKNER —When was the McKell Foundation determined to be an associated entity of the Australian Labor Party? Ms Mitchell —I cannot remember the exact date. I can get that information for you.	Answered 8/9/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F52	AEC	Faulkner	441	<p>Ms Mitchell—It is one of the enhancements to the web site that we are considering—a list of those organisations that we consider to be associated entities and which parties they are associated entities of. We have not managed to get that enhancement up on the web site yet. There are in the order of 80 associated entities.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—For the benefit of the committee I ask you to take on notice to provide the committee with such a list. It can be done in simple form—name of the registered party and name of the associated entity. If it is not too much trouble, it would be good for that to be provided. I hope you will be able to do it with the press of a couple of buttons.</p> <p>Ms Mitchell—We are not quite that advanced, but it should not be too much more difficult than that.</p>	Answered 8/9/03
F53	AEC	Brandis	442	<p>Senator BRANDIS—And will that be a public document when it is completed?</p> <p>Mr Dacey—Once it is completed I am not sure. I will have to take on notice whether it is commercial-inconfidence, but I expect that it would be a public document.</p>	Answered 8/9/03
F54	AEC	Brandis	449	<p>Mr Becker—I am reasonably certain that there was an email communication with Mr Snowden's office by Mr Diak. I do not have that with me, but I am happy to table that if it exists. I am reasonably certain that it does.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—There is no need to do that.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—I will ask if you could locate the email. You might take that on notice and produce it subsequently, if it exists.</p> <p>Mr Hallett—Yes.</p>	Answered 8/9/03
F55	AEC	Ray	451	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Did anyone then make contact with Mr Snowden's office and say, 'Hold on you've got this wrong. We're correcting the record,' et cetera?</p> <p>Mr Hallett—Mr Diak had been dealing with the adviser to Mr Snowden and I would have to take it on notice to check whether he actually also raised the matter about the content of the ABC broadcast.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—So you don't know.</p> <p>Mr Hallett—No.</p>	Answered 8/9/03
F56	AEC	Ray	453	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—There is no file note on the 15th, is there?</p> <p>Mr Hallett—I am not sure, Senator. I would have to check.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—It is on the 16th. Even though it is undated, it is the 16th?</p> <p>Mr Hallett—As I said to you, I am aware that Mr Diak documented the discussions after the event.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Was this on the same day or the day after?</p> <p>Mr Hallett—Of that I am not certain.</p>	Answered 8/9/03

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F57	AEC	Ray	454	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—So the email mentions a telephone conversation?</p> <p>Mr Hallett—As I say, I don't have it in front of me, Senator. But it is reasonably standard procedure—where there is a telephone inquiry from the media or a member of the public about a particular issue, it is quite often followed up by an email.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—And you would say, 'Following our phone conversation yesterday'?</p> <p>Mr Hallett—I would expect it would be something along those lines. As I say, I do not have the email in front of me, so I would really like to check.</p>	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F58	AEC	Ray	460	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—What is the total cost of moving everyone over there, in these 'stringent fiscal times'?</p> <p>Mr Becker—I do not know. We can find out for you, if you wish.</p>	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F59	AEC	Ray	460	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—So you will take on notice the estimated costs of holding this meeting in Perth? How long do you think it will take to get that answer back?</p> <p>Mr Becker—Not long at all.</p>	<p>Answered 5/6/03 8/9/03</p>
F60	AEC	Faulkner	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F61	DOFA	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F62	AEC	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F63	CGC	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F64	ComSuper CSS PSS	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F65	DOFA	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 13/10/03</p>
F66	AEC	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F67	CGC	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Answered 8/9/03</p>
F68	ComSuper (a) CSS (b) PSS (b)	Carr	n/a written	Question attached	<p>Part (a) Answered 13/10/03 Part (b) Answered 8/9/03 13/9/03</p>

QoN No.	Agency/Program	Senator	Hansd pg	QUESTION	Comments
F69	DOFA	Lundy	n/a written	Question attached	Answered 13/10/03

Finance and Administration portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission Output 2.1

1. Is the Australian Electoral Commission giving consideration whether to establish the National Tally Room for the next or future elections?
2. Is the Australian Electoral Commission giving consideration to possible changes to the nature or operations of the National Tally Room for the next or future elections, and if so, what changes are being contemplated?
3. Is the Australian Electoral Commission giving consideration to possible changes to the broadcasting arrangements or operations of the National Tally Room for the next or future elections, and if so, what changes are being contemplated?
4. What were the costs of running the National Tally Room at the 1998 and 2001 Federal Elections?
5. What is the expected running costs for operating the National Tally Room at the next Federal Election?
6. In the Australian Electoral Commission's view, what are the benefits of a National Tally Room?

F61-64

Please direct these questions on notice in relation to all Ministers, departments and each statutory authority staffed under the Public Service Act/Parliamentary Service Act within the Minister's portfolio covered by your committee.

- (1) What were the numbers of Senior Executive Service staff at each SES Band level at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June for each subsequent year including the number and level of SE staff as at 31 March 2003?
- (2) What were the minimum and maximum salary levels for each SES Band, whether determined by Australian Workplace Agreements or otherwise, as at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June in each subsequent year, including those at 31 March 2003?
- (3) What were the numbers of staff with salaries overlapping SES salaries as at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June in each subsequent year, including as at 31 March 2003 and what were the minimum and maximum levels of these salaries?
- (4) How many people are currently employed other than under the Public Service Act, including under contract arrangements, at salary levels equivalent to the SES and what are the minimum and maximum levels of the salaries paid?

Please put these questions on notice for every portfolio covered by your committee.

(1) Have any agencies within your portfolio introduced arrangements whereby SES or other staff who are entitled to a motor vehicle as part of their remuneration are able to cash the vehicle out and have the cashed out amount count as salary for superannuation purposes?

(2) If so:

- (a) When were these arrangements introduced and do they still apply?
- (b) In what agencies do they apply?
- (c) What was the policy justification for the arrangement in each agency?
- (d) Were any actuarial calculations made of the long-term costs of these arrangements? If so, what were the details of these estimates? If no calculations were made why was this not done?

**Finance and Public Administration
Legislation Committee**

Questions on Notice to the Department of Finance and Administration

Senator Kate Lundy

DCITA Web site

- What position did Dr Ian Watt hold in the Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts during the period when the DCITA Departmental website was being negotiated, signed off on, and implemented?
- When did Dr Watt leave the Department?
- What was the extent of Dr Watt's involvement in the Departmental web site?
- At what point was Dr Watt made aware that the web site was going over budget?
- Was Dr Watt made aware that the web site was to be commercialised? When did this occur? What was Dr Watt's response?
- Was Dr Watt aware of the memorandum of understanding signed between DCITA and DOTARS?
- What decisions was Dr Watt called upon to make, or to sign off on, in regards to the web site?
- At what point did Dr. Watt first inform the Minister of the issues surrounding the web site?

DOFA Web site

- Please outline the process surrounding the development of DOFA's Departmental web site.
- What was the entire cost of the web site development
- Please provide a breakdown of the Department's web site expenditure

Virus Attack

- Please outline by date the details of every computer virus to affect the Department in the last three months.
- Which viruses were they, and was the nature of these viruses?
- Did these viruses impact on any work that was being done by the Department? If so, what work was affected and how?
- Did any of these viruses require new computer hardware or software to be purchased, leased or otherwise acquired by the Department, either on a permanent or temporary basis?