

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Parliament Portfolio

Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff

Budget Estimates 2003-04, May 2003

Question: Contract damages clause - P13
Outcome: The Commonwealth Parliament to have international standard broadcasting, transcription and information technology services and the Australian community to be able to see, hear and read the work of the Parliament.
Output: Infrastructure and Communications Support
Topic: Pager Project damages clause
Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Monday, 26 May 2003, Page 61

Senator Ray asked:

Senator ROBERT RAY—Is there a damages clause in the contract if they do not perform?

Mr Ward—I cannot answer that. I could take it on notice. I should say that while there have been significant delays, one of the reasons is that we can only do testing and work on this during non-sitting periods. It has always been frustrating for everyone that once sittings start, we have to walk away from the building and we can only come back when it is a non-sitting period.

Answer:

There is a damages clause in the contract if Ascom does not perform. Further, there is a performance guarantee with the Swedish parent company, if their local subsidiary does not perform.

The contract between the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff (DPRS) and Ascom Nira Pty Ltd (Ascom) is based on the standard Commonwealth Government Information Technology and Communications contract (GITC) Contract Terms and Conditions, and was drawn up on DPRS's behalf by the Australian Government Solicitor.