

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Program 2.1

Topic: Consultancy Expenditure

Question reference number: F32

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Senator Coonan asked:

I am interested to know whether Finance has commissioned any monitoring system to scrutinise consultancy expenditure across government.

Answer:

Finance has not commissioned a monitoring system to scrutinise consultancy expenditure across the government.

However, as per the *Requirements for Annual Reports*, released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit under subsection 63(2) and 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, all agencies are currently required to report the total number and the total expenditure for all new and on-going consultancies for a financial year within their annual reports.