



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance

Redirected to: Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer

In relation to: Treasurer's Advance

Hearing: 17 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 12–13

Transcript provided: 24 February 2025

Answer Due: 03 March 2025

Mr Russ Campbell, Acting Under Treasurer, Office of the Under Treasurer, Treasury, CMTEDD took on notice the following questions:

Ms Clay: And that is how that June overrun was managed? That is what happened?

Ms Stephen-Smith: Well I cannot speak to that, Ms Clay, I was not in any of these roles at the time. So I do not know if Mr Campbell can speak about the use of Treasurers advance in 23-24?

Mr Campbell: Yes, I mean we can come back to you on notice with what the Treasurer—

Ms Stephen-Smith: I mean, that really is a question for the Treasurer.

Mr Campbell: Yes. We can definitely – it is attached to the budget papers as well, the actual instruments that are attached to the Treasurers advance. But yes, as the minister described, yes, the process is there is reporting. The reporting encourages the interaction between Treasury and the relevant directorate. The directorate has its overarching responsibilities to the minister to manage the budget they have. And then the half-yearly opportunity to budget review and in budget, is when further decisions can be taken about, is it on track, sufficiently or not, to come back within budget?

So an example would have been, the budget review – the ERC would make a decision. Is that particular directorate on track or not? Can they take mitigating actions or not? And if they cannot, what additional funding might need to be sought to get through the financial year. And obviously that is what has happened in relation to the health pressure that was part of the appropriation bill for the – that is attached to budget review.

Ms Clay: And given that we had overspends in June, September and December, and certainly for September and December it is health. June, I am not sure. But maybe we will get an answer coming

back on that. Are we doing any health economic modelling about that to help us understand what is going on?

Mr Campbell: Treasury is actually looking very close to CHS now in the context of developing the budget to understand what some of those pressures look like and any mitigating action.

MR CHRIS STEEL MLA, TREASURER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I refer the Member to the response provided to QTON No. 29.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature:



By the Treasurer, Chris Steel MLA

Date:

24/3/25