



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 4 November 2022: Mr Duncan Edghill took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 4 November 2022 PAGE 47.

In relation to: Tender Procurement

MR CAIN: Could you take on notice to provide over the last three years all contracts over say half a million dollars where the winning tender price is different to the final signed contract price?

Mr Barr: I suspect that is a massive information request. So I will review--the contract price threshold is very low in that instance and would possibly involve tens of thousands of contracts, so I am not prepared to authorise that level of work. I think we will take on notice and provide an answer that we can sensibly in relation to the theme of the question.

MR CAIN: I am not sure how many--

THE CHAIR: If 500 million is too much, sorry, for 100,000 there may be a million may be the threshold?

Mr Barr: I do not think that would significantly shift the numbers. If we looked at it in terms of the capital framework, projects over ten million might be a smaller number, but I will take some advice from Mr Edghill on the level of work that is required and provide--I understand the intent of the question, but I am just not prepared to authorise a team having to spend three months poring over tens of thousands of contracts.

MR CAIN: Just to assist the query, because it is a genuine query and I think the community deserves to know these answers, you could perhaps outline approximately how many contracts are at the different thresholds and then which number is a reasonable number to inquire further into. Then if you will take that on notice.

Mr Barr: Yes. Yes, we will.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Notifiable Contracts Register data (excluding Work Orders from Standing Agreements/Panels) for Financial Year 2019-2020 to 8 November 2022 lists 497 notifiable contracts over \$500k, 183 notifiable contracts over \$2 million, 74 notifiable contracts over \$5 million and 40 notifiable contracts over \$10 million.

It may be appropriate to inquire into a random selection of a small number of procurement processes that meet clearly defined criteria. It would not be appropriate to divert ACT Government Directorate resources into a review of all procurement processes.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 11.11.22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA