

CONSULTANCY FIRMS

631. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to engagement of major consultancy firms by the WA government.

- (1) What is the total amount paid by the WA government to the following companies in the 2022 calendar year —
 - (a) PricewaterhouseCoopers;
 - (b) Deloitte Australia;
 - (c) Ernst and Young;
 - (d) Accenture;
 - (e) KPMG;
 - (f) Boston Consulting Group; and
 - (g) McKinsey and Company?
- (2) Does the Treasurer have full confidence that the consulting firms referred to in (1) are acting in the interests of Western Australia?
- (3) If yes to (2), is the minister aware that the core legal responsibility of these firms is to maximise shareholder value?
- (4) Considering the revelations regarding PricewaterhouseCoopers at the federal level, will the Treasurer order a public inquiry to ascertain whether consultancy firms have been acting in the interests of Western Australia?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Finance and I answer on her behalf.

- (1)–(4) As part of the government’s ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency, and in accordance with Premier’s Circular 2021-17, a six-monthly report on consultants engaged by the government is tabled in both houses of Parliament regularly. Each report details the name of the consultants engaged, the purpose of the engagement, the period of engagement and the costs. Confidentiality is an important consideration in the state’s procurement frameworks and policies. The Department of Finance administers the state’s procurement framework, which has robust contractual conditions to mitigate the risk of confidential information being shared publicly. The state government has a set of standard terms and conditions to engage contractors that include provisions to protect the state’s interests. Importantly, this includes protection of the state’s confidential information. If a confidentiality breach were to occur in WA, there are clearly stated contractual remedies to manage the issue.