

Question on Notice

No. 1274

Asked on 16 August 2016

MRS SMITH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS (HON L ENOCH) —

Will the Minister advise if all of the money has been recovered from the \$12M in overpayments made to contractors and has the department had any more ‘enthusiastic’ staff members since that time?

ANSWER:

On becoming aware of the incident referred to by the Member, the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI) immediately commenced actions to recover the duplicated payments. A total of \$12.418 million (99.98%) has since been returned.

In addition to taking immediate corrective action, DSITI responded to the incident by undertaking a review of work processes and staff training. A system control mechanism was also implemented to prevent similar incidents from recurring.

There have been no further incidents of this type.