

Question on Notice
No. 215
Asked on 7 March 2024

Mr J Lister asked Premier (Hon. S Miles)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Premier and Cabinet contract disclosure log that shows in the first four months of this financial year the department has spent \$1.157m on ‘Labour Hire’—

Will the Premier provide (a) further details on the purpose of the engagements and (b) why existing departmental resources could not be used?

ANSWER:

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) is committed to minimising expenditure on contractors where work can be performed by public servants.

I am advised where DPC’s expertise or resources require augmentation by specialists, systems are in place to ensure value for money and to manage contracts in line with the *Queensland Procurement Policy 2023*.

DPC publishes details of awarded contracts as required under the *Queensland Procurement Policy 2023* and *Procurement Guidelines: Contract Disclosure*.

In accordance with the guidelines, the contract’s total value is published. Therefore, the disclosed value is not necessarily reflective of actual expenditure for the given period.

It is noted that, where the question refers to ‘the first four months of the financial year’, the disclosure referenced is 1 July to 30 November 2023, not four months. Actual spend against these contracts, for this period totalled \$616,448.14 (excluding GST).

As acknowledged in the guidance *Engaging and managing consultants and indirect workers*, published by Queensland Government Procurement, Department of Energy and Climate, there are reasons why such engagements may occur. This includes, for example, work that requires capacity due to unpredictable demands with immediate or time critical action.

The decision to engage labour hire is made on a case-by-case basis dependant on operational requirements.