

Standing Committee on Social Issues: Procurement practices inquiry
Tuesday 2 April 2024
Questions Taken on Notice

Answers to questions on notice

Refer to the inquiry hearing transcript with questions on notice highlighted:

Question	Answer
<p>1. Is that three months on the eTendering system under a policy document [the obligation to disclose contracts]? (Page 14)</p>	<p>Part 3 , Division 5, clause 34 of GIPA states that the minimum public access period is whichever is the longer of the following periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) 20 working days; or B) the period until the project to which the contract relates is complete, the goods and services concerned have been provided under the contract, the term of the lease has expired, or the real property has been transferred <p>Agencies determine the display until date using the above criteria. Once the display until date is reached the contract is removed from public view but is still available on request. Due to limitations on the current eTendering site searching for older contracts needs to be completed using advanced search functionality and is limited to retrieval of 1000 records at a time. There are currently 15,570 contracts available for viewing on eTendering with the oldest contract being from January 2006.</p>
<p>2. Will it [the new version of eTendering] be able to link to associated tenders? For example, where we've seen massive variations in contracts, will it have a way to be able to link back to the originals so that we can see other associated documents? (Page 14)</p>	<p>Yes. In the first instance tenders created on the new Buy NSW Tenders module will be linked to the associated disclosure notice. For tenders created on agency systems and advertised on the new Tenders module this information will need to be passed through by agencies. It must be noted that there is a limitation associated as the requirement to notify the market of all tenders (regardless of type or value) on eTendering has lapsed so only open tenders are generally notified on eTendering. Buy NSW is working towards the reinstatement of this requirement to support greater transparency in procurement activity.</p>
<p>3. I think there's a footnote on that page which says this includes contractors and temporary employees. Could you give us a breakdown of the arrangements of the staff in terms of contractors et cetera? [the breakdown between permanent vs contracting staff] (Page 17)</p>	<p>There are currently 104 procurement FTEs across the DCS portfolio of which 10 are contractors</p>