

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INTEGRATION, ALIGNING SALARIES

558. Hon C L Edwardes to the Minister for Public Sector Management

- (1) I refer the Minister to the Machinery of Government Taskforce Report, Part 1, page 28 referring to the 'standardisation of different remuneration levels for staff if agencies are combined', and that 'upwards flexibility of salaries is a distinct possibility' and ask does this mean that disparate rates which occur between agencies due primarily to differences in the hours required to work each week, and the extent to which employment conditions have been "cashed out: or "traded off" will be removed, and therefore rates will be aligned to the highest agreement rate across the whole of the public sector, or just across the agencies being integrated into the proposed new departments?
- (2) What would be the additional cost per annum, of aligning the rates to the highest agreement for -
  - (a) across the whole of the public sector; and/or
  - (b) across the agencies being integrated into the proposed new departments?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Not applicable.  
(b) Not applicable.