

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSES

657. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

Will the Minister please inform the House of details of the use of confidentiality clauses in any contracts entered into by any agencies or departments under the Minister's responsibilities since February 2001, including -

- (1) The name of the company involved?
- (2) The amount of the contract -
 - (a) in total; and
 - (b) relating to the company as per (1)?
- (3) The project the contract was related to?
- (4) The aspects of the contract covered by the clause?
- (5) The reasons for the confidentiality clause?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

For the Department of Local Government and Regional Development:

- (1)-(5) Government contracts may incorporate a range of confidentiality provisions that are intended to protect the interests of Government, including, but not necessarily limited to, the treatment of information and intellectual property obtained or created by contractors in providing goods or services to Government and/or the community. Provisions may also apply in relation to protection of a contractor's commercial interests (including pricing, intellectual property, etc) in various contracts.

With regard to specific government contracts, the detailed information requested by the Member is not readily available. Provision of this information would require considerable research, which would divert staff away from their normal duties.

If the Member has a more specific inquiry about confidentiality in Government contracts, I will seek further advice.