

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY  
QUESTION NUMBER: 400 [NO3736E]  
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**Mr R A Lees (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Whether, with reference to the 2015-16 budget expenditure ceiling, he has taken any steps to monitor that the specified expenditure ceiling is not exceeded; if not, why not; if so, (a) which departments have exceeded the expenditure ceiling and (b) what action has he and the Cabinet taken to reduce the expenditure in the specified departments?

NO3736E

**REPLY:**

On a monthly basis the statements of revenue, expenditure and borrowing are published in terms of Section 32 of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999. These statements can be found on the National Treasury website. As at the end June 2015 (Q1 2015/16), main budget expenditure was 22.4 per cent of the budgeted amount for the fiscal year. Expenditure is projected to remain within the ceiling set at the time of the 2015 Budget.

The expenditure ceiling encompasses non-interest expenditure of the entire main budget, and is not set at the departmental level. Every year, as part of the budget process, National Treasury works with departments to manage expenditure pressures and ensure that the ceiling remains intact. Spending pressures are managed in a variety of ways: drawdowns on the contingency reserve, reprioritisation across departments, identification of efficiency savings, and requests to departments to accommodate some pressures within existing baseline allocations.