

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 720

20 MAY 2005

MR E W TRENT (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Whether any provinces failed to spend any of the funds allocated to them as conditional grants in respect of the 2004-05 Budget; if so, what amount was (a) allocated and (b) remained unspent in respect of each (i) province and (ii) category as at 31 March 2005;
- (2) whether any of the above funds have been surrendered to the National Treasury; if not, in each case why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) It is not possible to provide accurate figures on provincial spending on any conditional grant at this stage, since provincial departments are yet to submit their financial statements for audit by 31 May each year. Reports by national departments responsible for conditional grants will only be available by then. I suggest that the Honourable Member refer specific questions on any grant to the responsible national Minister. If the Honourable Member is happy to look at initial projections, I can refer the member to the section 32 PFMA report gazetted and published on the treasury website on 29 April, which provides initial spending information on some conditional grants. I also refer the Honourable Member to a related Press Release on 17 May 2005 on our website www.treasury.gov.za. Details on budgeted allocations for all conditional grants are also available from the Division of Revenue Act, 2004 (Act No. 5 of 2004) and all gazettes in terms of that Act.
- (2) As noted above, financial statements are not finalised yet, and I am unable to answer this question at this stage. In general, however, any unspent funds (whether conditional grants or normal departmental funds) are surrendered automatically at the end of the financial year to the respective (national or provincial) Revenue Funds and some funds not transferred by national transferring departments will be surrendered to the National Treasury. Transferred funds not spent may or may not be transferred back to the National Treasury, as they may be retained by the province depending on the conditions for that grant.

