

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**  
**QUESTION NUMBER 571**  
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**Dr D T George (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) Whether any steps will be taken to limit the permissible amount spent per annual reports; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the National Treasury will draft guidelines to detail how the relevant financial and performance data shall be highlighted; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY**

- (1) The National Treasury does not provide specific guidelines as to how much can be spent on annual reports. Instead, the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), empowers the accounting officer of a department, trading entity or constitutional institution with the ability to ensure the effective, efficient, economical and transparent use of the resources of the department, trading entity or constitutional institution. The accounting officer has a duty to prevent irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Chapter 10 of the Act clearly stipulates the proceedings that need to take place should the accounting officer not be fulfilling his/her duties. Parliament through its oversight function also has a role to play in this regard.
- (2) A preparation guide to assist with the compilation of annual financial statements is available on the website of the Office of the Accountant-General at <http://oag.treasury.gov.za/publications>. Guidelines are published on a regular basis and are updated as reporting requirements are amended.