

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY  
QUESTION NUMBER: 1626 [NW1776E]  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 25 MAY 2018**

**1626. Mr D J Maynier (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Whether there were any requests for deviations from the mandatory cost containment measures announced by the National Treasury since the reply to question 2624 on 14 September 2017; if not, what is the National Treasury's policy position with regard to requests for deviations in the specified period; if so, (a) what is the name of the department, constitutional entity and/or public entity that made a request for a deviation, (b) when was each deviation (i) requested and (ii) approved and/or denied, (c) what was the nature of each specified deviation requested, (d) what was the motivation for requesting each deviation and (e) why was the specified deviation request approved and/or denied in each case?

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**REPLY:**

The National Treasury did receive additional cost containment requests for deviations, the details of these requests are set out on the attached **ANNEXURE A**

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**ANNEXURE A**

INSTITUTION (a)	DATE OF REQUEST (b)	REQUEST (c)	DEPARTMENTS MOTIVATION (d)	APPROVED/NOT APPROVED (e)	NT REASONS (e)
<b>Department of Justice and constitutional development</b>	07 March 2018	Application to seek approval for expenses exceeding the maximum rates in the NT instruction no 02 of 2016/17 to be incurred in hosting of an international conference "Access to Justice, Legal Costs and Other Interventions "	The aim of the international conference is to consult with the local and international stakeholders and role player on the matters of access to justice, legal costs and other interventions to obtain their views, opinions and suggestion to inform the development of draft issue papers and to ensure a more comprehensive inputs.	<b>Not Approved</b>	<p>After careful consideration of the information provided including quotations from three different service providers, the National Treasury (NT) noted that the rates per delegate per day are within the rates as per paragraph 5.5 of the cost containment measures read together with paragraph 5.6 for the <b>conference</b>.</p> <p>However, NT found no compelling reasons to support the hosting of the <b>cocktail function</b> at a</p>

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					charge above the prescribed rates.
<b>Department of Trade and Industry</b>	1 March 2018	Hosting of conferences or events. Request by the Department to exceed the stipulated conference fee per provisions of paragraph 5.5 of the cost containment measures as set out in the National Treasury Note No. 03 of 2017/18, for hosting the SADC Quality Awards Ceremony.	Conference for the hosting of SADC awards and requested to exceed conference fee set out in cost containment provisions.	<b>Not Approved</b>	No compelling grounds provided by the Department indicating that the excess fee would result in the expenditure being necessary, appropriate and cost effective.
<b>South African Heritage Resources Agency</b>	1 March 2018	An approval to host an annual Recognition Event for Staff.	The event is important to the entity to show their appreciation of the employee's contribution. The event will also encourage employees to respond positively to the gesture.	<b>Not Approved</b>	Although it is important to motivate staff, National Treasury has found no compelling reasons to approve expenditure to host this event as the entity could use other costless means of motivating staff.