

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question:** SBT 309-314

**Topic:** Public Service Efficiency (AOFM)

**Written:** Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

309. Please detail how the department/agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012.

In addition, please provide the following detail:

310. How will reductions in air travel spending be achieved? What is the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
311. What restrictions will be implemented for business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
312. How will the use of external consultants and contractors be reduced? How will this impact on the department/agency? What the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
313. How will the department/agency manage moving recruitment advertising online? Will all future recruitment advertisement be online only? If not, explain why. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
314. How will printing costs be reduced? Explain of and how the department/agency will reduce its printing costs by five per cent, or if it why not, why not? How will it be determined what documents will no longer be printed? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

**Answer:**

309. The AOFM will be required to make savings of \$143,000 over the four years from 2012-13 to 2015-16. The AOFM will aim to achieve these savings through reductions in air travel and by moving recruitment advertising online.
310. The AOFM's investor relations activities comprise both domestic and overseas trips to engage with financial intermediaries and investors on the development of the CGS market. This is done through bilateral meetings and participating in conferences and roundtable events. For 2012-13 and onwards the AOFM will restrict its involvement in some conferences as it sees bilateral meetings as providing more effective engagement. It is also

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putting its direct engagement with investors on a longer cycle (i.e. meeting some investors every two years rather than every year).

311. See response to SBT 310.
312. The AOFM uses consultants and contractors only in circumstances where there is a need for specialised skills that are not otherwise available in the agency, or where there is a need for independent research or assessment. There is little scope for the AOFM to make savings in relation to consultants and contractors costs.
313. The AOFM conducts all recruitment advertising by online channels only. All future recruitment advertising will be conducted online only. The AOFM has not prepared an estimate of the savings it expects to make through this measure.
314. The AOFM incurs printing costs arising from the publication of its annual report and from publication of information booklets used for the AOFM's investor relations activities to investors and financial intermediaries. There is little scope for the AOFM to make savings in relation to printing costs.