

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Departmental Senate Estimates briefing

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 190

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1) How many officers were responsible for preparing the Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?
- 2) How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
- 3) Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?
- 4) Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
 - c. When were the changes made?

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet prepares briefs for use by Ministers attending the Senate Estimates hearings for the Department and for its officials who appear as witnesses.

The Department is not able to provide data on how many officers were involved in preparing the briefs, the hours spent, the number of drafts/versions, edits or hours spent making edits. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.