

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 383**

**Program No. Legal**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Red Tape Reduction**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the Department dedicated to meeting the Government's red tape reduction targets?
  - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target?
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. Do member of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
7. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
8. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

1. The portfolio has established its Deregulation Unit. Resourcing for the Deregulation Unit, including staffing levels and classifications, will however vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action. The Deregulation Unit was, and will continue to be, staffed from existing resources.
  - a. Progress towards the red tape reduction target, including costing estimates for particular measures, is contained in the Autumn Repeal Day Summary available at: <http://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au/repeal-day/2014-autumn-repeal-day>
2. See answer to question 1.
3. See answer to question 1.
4. See answer to question 1.
5. See answer to question 1.
6. Deregulation Unit members have access to cabinet documents commensurate with their respective security clearances.
7. See answers to questions 1 and 6.
8. The Deregulation Unit.