

Senate Select Committee on Red Tape

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Effect of red tape on health Services

Monday, 5 February 2018

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Senator: Senator Paterson

Question:

Senator PATERSON: Sure. But, just to clarify, the data has continued to be kept and is measured. So, theoretically, the same figure that you've been able to provide for 2013 to 2015 could be provided for 2015 to 2018, if you were asked to do so?

Mrs Shaw: Yes. Portfolios are obligated every year to provide a report. As part of that, the department and the policy areas update that information as they see current at that point in time. So, yes, there's a review that goes on periodically on those figures.

Senator PATERSON: So, if the committee asked you to calculate and provide that figure, you would be able to do so?

Mrs Shaw: That would be a matter to be referred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, who are responsible for publishing that figure.

Senator PATERSON: Why would you need to refer it to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet? You've got the data, and the Senate committee you're appearing before has asked for the data. Isn't it a simple matter of calculating it and providing it to us?

Ms Appleyard: We would have to take advice on that. We are just conforming to the normal processes through which we report, so, for a specific request like this, we would have to take advice. We are very happy to take that on notice.

Senator PATERSON: If you could take that on notice, I'd be very interested to see what those updated figures are. Thank you.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has been responsible for collating and publishing annual reports on whole of government regulatory reform and the last published report covered the period up to the end of 2015. PM&C has been working on a report covering the period from 2016 to 2017 although this function recently moved to the Department of Jobs and Small Business. Health has provided input to the 2016 to 2017 report, which is currently being finalised for publication by the Department of Jobs and Small Business.

Details of individual regulatory reform measures covered by Standard and Long Form Regulatory Impact Statements are reported on the Office of Best Practice Regulation website within PM&C at www.ris.pmc.gov.au.