

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2017-2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: 1.1
Topic: Flex-time arrangements at the Australian Taxation Office

Senator: Smith

Question reference number: 14

Type of question: Spoken

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SMITH: Are you able to confirm for me how many hours have been accrued in the flex time arrangements at the Australian tax office?

Mr Spaccavento: It is not a figure that I could provide. It would be a figure the ATO would need to supply.

Senator SMITH: Is it a figure you have?

Mr Spaccavento: No.

Senator SMITH: Just explain to me why you would not have that figure.

Mr Spaccavento: The ATO would keep its own records of how much flex time had been accrued by employees. It is not a figure that the APSC has. We would need to ask the ATO to provide us with that figure.

Senator SMITH: And you cannot do that?

Mr Spaccavento: I cannot do it at present, no.

Senator SMITH: But you could take it on notice.

Mr Spaccavento: We could ask them—sorry, yes.

Ms Foster: That is a question that the ATO should be asked. It is not—

Senator SMITH: 'Should' is not the same as 'must'.

Ms Foster: We would, normally, not answer agency-specific questions; we might be able to go one layer deep but we do not know what lies beyond that.

Senator SMITH: I will come to a deal. You can take it on notice and if it is not something you can provide me with on notice I will accept that; but you can just provide that in the response. Would you be able to quantify the cost of that to the department?

Mr Spaccavento: I have some figures here that might go part of the way, and I might be able to do some calculations on the fly if that might be of some interest.

Senator SMITH: And if there is an error you can correct the record, of course.

Answer:

The Australian Public Service Commission does not keep this information. This question should be referred to the Australian Taxation Office.