

Question on notice no. 32

Portfolio question number: SQ24-000030

2023-24 Additional estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

Senator Bridget McKenzie: asked the Airservices Australia on 12 February 2024—

Senator McKENZIE: I've received information from a number of applicants who went through around six months of screening processes. In June last year you changed your guidelines and rejected some candidates. How many applications did this change affect?

Mr Harfield: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator McKENZIE: But that is a fact: that it is six months of screening?

Mr Harfield: Usually, by the time we put people through aptitude testing and, after that testing, do interviews, it can take up to six months.

Senator McKENZIE: Why were these applicants rejected without warning or explanation after going through that process?

Mr Harfield: I need to take that on notice. I don't have that information currently.

Senator McKENZIE: Mr Curran, do you know?

Mr Curran: No, I don't know the specifics about the individuals who went through our screening process and at what stage they were—

Senator McKENZIE: I don't want them identified. I do want to know, as part of due process and natural justice, why you change a process and they're all of a sudden kicked out.

Mr Harfield: There were two streams of intake last year. One was previously experienced air traffic controllers, which we were using to supplement ab initios because it takes us two years. How did we deal with that, versus the ab initio process? We will break it up into those two particular streams.