

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 18**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 22/10/2015**

**Topic: AAO - National policy issues relating to the digital economy staff transfers**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

Recent amendments to the Administrative Arrangements Order indicate that a matter dealt with by the Department of Communications and the Arts—“national policy issues relating to the digital economy”—has been transferred to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

- (a) As of 14 September 2015, how many staff did the then Department of Communications have engaged on matters related to “national policy issues relating to the digital economy.”
- (b) How many staff engaged on matters related to “national policy issues relating to the digital economy” have been transferred from the Department of Communications and the Arts to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science?
- (c) How many staff engaged on matters related to “national policy issues relating to the digital economy” have been reengaged within the Department of Communications and the Arts?

**Answer:**

(a) (b) (c) Prior to the amendments to the Administrative Arrangements Order, the Department’s Digital Productivity Division was responsible for a broad range of issues including data policy, digital government policy, digital economy policy, research/market analysis and international matters such as internet governance. As a result of the amendments to the Orders, 26 positions from the Digital Productivity Division were transferred to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. No staff have been re-engaged by the Department of Communications and the Arts.