

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
 Budget Estimates 2014
 3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: ABS

Question: BET 1163-1165

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

1163. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
1164. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?
1165. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

1163-1165. Since 26 February 2014 the ABS has commissioned two reports.

Commissioned Report	Review of ABS Sensitive Information Retention	Options to Increase ABS Revenue
Date commissioned	11 June 2014	17 March 2014
Date report handed to Government	The report and the Australian Statistician's response will be released to the Government when it is completed.	The report and the Australian Statistician's response will be released to the Government when it is completed.
Date of public release	The report and the Australian Statistician's response may be released to the public when it is completed.	N/A. The report will be presented to the new Australian Statistician when appointed who will determine whether it will be released.
Terms of reference	The report will assess all ABS systems of controls including policies, processes, education and awareness, culture and IT systems. However, the review will not undertake a detailed technical assessment of IT security	The Contractor is to provide advice on raising Revenue for the ABS.

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	systems, possible avenues of leakage of information held in the ABS, or a forensic review of data access by specific staff members.	
Committee members	N/A. No existing committee.	N/A. No existing committee.
Cost	The cost will not exceed \$70,000 (GST inclusive).	\$77, 924.00 (GST inclusive).
Number of staff involved	1 x external consultant will be undertaking the review. ABS staff at varying levels will be consulted where appropriate to the report.	4 x Price Waterhouse Coopers staff members. ABS staff at varying levels were consulted where appropriate to the report.
Status of report	Drafting.	Received and being considered by ABS Management, with the ABS response pending appointment of the new Australian Statistician.
Date of Government response	N/A. The Government is not expected to respond. The Australian Statistician will provide a response to the report.	N/A. The Government is not expected to respond.