

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 540-544

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Written: 25 November 2013

Senator LUDWIG asked:

540. Has there been a reduction in business flights?
- a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
541. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors?
- a. Has this impacted on the department/agency, and how?
- b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
542. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online.
- a. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why?
- b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
543. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs?
- a. If not, why not?
- b. Have printing costs increased, and if yes, why and by how much?
544. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not be achieved, why not?
- a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

540. As per page 166 of the 2012-13 Annual Report Treasury has reduced expenditure on travel compared to 2011-12. Savings over the forward years cannot be estimated as the department does not set budgets to this level of detail in the forward years.
541. As per page 166 of the 2012-13 Annual Report Treasury has reduced expenditure on consultants and contractors compared to 2011-12. External consultants and contractors will only be used when the department doesn't have the necessary expertise. Savings over the forward years cannot be estimated as the department does not set budgets to this level of detail in the forward years
542. The Treasury will continue to advertise employment opportunities online through commercial jobs boards and APSjob.gov.au. In accordance with the Australian Government's advertising guidelines, some specific positions that are hard to fill may be advertised in the major daily papers. The Treasury has reduced its recruitment budget, which includes recruitment advertising, by 3 per cent.

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543. As per page 166 of the 2012-13 Annual Report Treasury has reduced expenditure on printing costs compared to 2011-12. Savings over the forward years cannot be estimated as the department does not set budgets to this level of detail in the forward years.
544. Reductions in printing costs will be achieved by greater reliance on on-line publishing. The Treasury will assess each publication to determine how it will be published. The Treasury has reduced its printing expenditure by around 30 per cent.