

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates**  
**20-21 November 2013**

**Question:** SBT 565-569

**Topic:** Public Service Efficiencies

**Written:** 25 November 2013

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

565. Has there been a reduction in business flights?  
a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
566. 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?
567. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why?  
a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
568. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs?  
a. If no, why not?  
b. Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
569. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not?  
a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

**Answer:**

565. ASIC manages its business travel policy in line with WoAG procurement rules and with reference to specific conditions associated with certain staff members' employment terms. As per the response to SBT 388, the ASIC Domestic Travel Policy states that Senior Executives may travel business class when their flight is in excess of 2 hours. All other staff must travel economy class domestically unless there is a business case approved by their Senior Executive to travel at a higher fare class. Commission members are entitled under the Remuneration Tribunal Determination to fly Business for domestic flights.
- For travel outside Australia, staff are entitled to travel business class for international travel. Commissioners are entitled to fly first class for international travel as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determinations, however first class travel is only undertaken in exceptional circumstances.
565.  
a. ASIC has identified estimated savings over the forward estimates at a business unit level rather than by expenditure line.

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566. Yes.
- a. External consultants are generally used, as required, to provide specialist skills not available in ASIC, or when large new programs (both government mandated and internally generated) are to be delivered. The reduced use of contractors and consultants has not been such as to have an impact on ASIC meeting its strategic priorities.
  - b. Associated costs are dependent upon the delivery of future programs, including NPP programs; therefore savings are difficult to estimate.
567. ASIC has moved to online as the primary method of recruitment advertising.
- In the current financial year to date 30 November 2013, there has been no print advertising undertaken. Print advertising is only considered when necessary to target appropriate candidates for particular roles, for example when we need to recruit significant numbers of staff in Traralgon (La Trobe Valley), and in seeking staff to work in Indigenous outreach roles.
- a. It is estimated that the cost of print advertising for recruitment purposes will remain at very low levels, if at all.
568. For the 2012/13 financial year, ASIC's total printing costs reduced by 8.5% compared to 2011/12. ASIC encourages customers and consumers to use our online services; however, a very small subset of publications continue to be printed for those without access to online services, such as some retirees, the indigenous community and those in remote areas.
- a. Not applicable.
  - b. Not applicable.
569. The savings target set by Government through the Public Service Efficiencies Dividend will be achieved. ASIC continues to primarily pursue and secure efficiencies through review of its goods and services expenditure. Specifically, savings are arising from the sub-leasing of surplus office space and leveraging WoAG arrangements around telecommunications, accommodation and air travel.