

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Supplementary Budget Estimates  
2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: ABS**

**Question: SBT412-414**

**Topic: Commissioned reports**

**Reference: Written - 05 November 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

- 412. 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.
- 413. 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?
- 414. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

412 – 414

From 3 June to 5 November 2014, two reports have been commissioned:

- The ABS initiated a technical review of Labour Force Statistics on 9 October 2014. There is no committee; one external consultant undertook the review over four weeks. The cost of the consultant was \$11,362 plus super. ABS staff members at varying levels were consulted where appropriate. The report has been completed and the ABS is preparing a response. The report's summary and the ABS's response to the recommendations are planned to be released with the November 2014 issue of *Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)* on 11 December 2014. As a matter of routine business, the ABS will liaise with the Treasurer, Secretary to the Treasury and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer but the Government is not expected to formally respond.
- The Treasurer commissioned a report on the ABS organisational arrangements affecting the provision of key economic data on 9 October 2014. There is no official committee. The team conducting the review and preparing the report is comprised of the Secretary to the Treasury; 1 x SES, 1 x EL2 and 1 x APS5 from the Treasury; 2 x SES and 1 x APS6 from the ABS; 1 x SES from the APSC; and ABS staff members at varying levels were consulted where appropriate. The review is ongoing and the dates of release, government receipt and response are yet to be arranged. Due to multiple agency involvement, to attempt to provide accurate costs would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.