DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Digital Economy programmes

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 77

QUESTION No.: SI-23

Senator KIM CARR: With regard to the digital economy, under the administrative orders there is reference to, 'the national policy issues relating to the digital economy'. Where does that program sit within the department now?
Ms Beauchamp: That program will probably sit within our strategic policy area. There are two elements related to the coalition commitments around the digital economy. There was a stream of work related to what is now being managed through the Digital Transformation Office, and there is also the work that has been transferred to us in terms of policy work around the digital economy and what that means for industry policy.
Senator KIM CARR: I think you said 28 had been transferred from communications?
Ms Beauchamp: 28 positions, yes.
Senator KIM CARR: Will all 28 be working in the same areas in the department of industry and innovation?
Ms Beauchamp: That is the proposal—to keep the team together—yes.
Senator KIM CARR: I have been led to believe that the Department of Communications, when asked some questions on the digital economy matters on Tuesday, specified that the status of 34 digital productivity initiatives at appendix C of the Advancing Australia as a Digital Economy. I am just wondering, are you undertaking all of those programs now in the department of industry?
Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice.
Senator KIM CARR: These, I understand, were programs that were initiated by the previous government and continued under the current government. Are you planning to cancel any of those initiatives?
Ms Beauchamp: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

Thirty two of the 34 digital productivity initiatives announced in Advancing Australia as a Digital Economy are complete. The two remaining initiatives, scheduled to complete in 2016-17, are:

- Broadband for Seniors, which is managed by Department of Social Services; and
- In Home Telemonitoring for Veterans, which is managed by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally, please note that a total of 26 positions have moved from the Department of Communications and the Arts to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, not 28 as mentioned in the Hansard extract above.