

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Budget Estimates 2013–14
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio
February 2014

Department	Parliamentary Budget Office
Topic	Staffing
Senator	Senator Smith
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Question

Senator SMITH: Thanks. If I could just make some brief inquiries of you around staffing. Obviously PBO officials were recruited during that last parliament, but I am interested in understanding what was the transition process from their former roles. In particular, I am keen to understand whether or not people came to the PBO via a lateral transfer under the Public Service Act, whether they came through a bulk recruitment process or whether they may have been recruited for specific positions. Can you take that on notice and provide me with some information?

Mr Bowen: I can take it on notice. Certainly, we have recruited some via direct transfer. We have recruited others to specific jobs. And we have recruited others in bulk rounds.

But there is one overriding issue that I would like on the record and that is that, no matter what process we have used, we have had a very clear idea of the sorts of people we want. We have been quite selective, in fact, in our recruitment, to ensure we have the right mix of skills—and we will continue to do that.

Senator SMITH: Were any PBO officials drawn from ministerial offices prior to the September general election—on a permanent or temporary basis?

Mr Bowen: Not to my knowledge, no.

Senator SMITH: If you could just—

Mr Bowen: I will look to clarify that, but I do not believe so. It is possible that some staff may have worked in a minister's office at some point, but I do not believe that any have come directly from a minister's office. I will clarify that.

Senator SMITH: Thank you, Mr Bowen.

Senator WONG: Please draw a distinction, when taking that on notice, Mr Bowen, between ministerial staff and departmental staff.

Senator SMITH: I am happy with that.

Mr Bowen: Yes, I will do that.

Answer

As at 28 February 2014 the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) had 36 staff who were recruited as follows:

- 26 through bulk recruitment processes;
- six through specific position recruitment; and
- four staff through lateral transfers from other Commonwealth agencies.

No PBO staff were employed directly from ministerial offices prior to the September 2013 general election.