

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE –ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS**

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard/Ora l/Written	Date answer Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	Senate	Wright	Changes to the Senate Chamber security	<p>1. Please confirm that there is now an armed AFP officer stationed in the attendant's room of the Senate Chamber during question time.</p> <p>a. Please advise of the process used to make this decision (i.e. who was involved in the decision making process, when the decision was made and why?)</p> <p>b. What prompted the decision?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Was there a particular incident which prompted the decision?</p> <p>c. What evidence is there to suggest this measure is necessary?</p> <p>d. What weapon is the AFP officer carrying while on duty in the attendant's room?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. What is the state of the weapon?</p> <p>e. Is it only one officer in the attendant's room at this stage?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Is increasing the number of officers under consideration, or has it been under consideration?</p> <p>f. What sort of incidents is this officer aiming to prevent or respond to?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. What advice is this based upon?</p> <p>g. What brief has this AFP officer been given?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Is the officer able to make a decision about how to respond to any given incident or will they be required to report to an officer in command?</p> <p>h. Are there concerns for the security of the Senate chamber outside the hour of question time?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Has there been discussion about the presence of armed officers outside of question time?</p> <p>i. Those who wish to enter the public galleries are subject to extensive screening prior to entry, regardless of whether they are entering during question time or not. Was the change to security arrangements made on the basis that weapons may be concealed during this screening process and</p>	Written	17/3/15	

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				<p>somehow be brought into the chamber undetected?</p> <p>i. If not, on what basis was the change considered necessary?</p> <p>j. What sorts of weapons may be concealed in this manner?</p> <p>k. If this is a concern, what is being done to tighten the screening processes for those wishing to enter the public gallery during question time, or indeed, at any other time?</p> <p>l. Will there be any circumstances where the armed officer may enter the public gallery with a weapon?</p> <p>i. If so, please list the circumstances.</p> <p>m. Will there be any circumstances where the armed officer may enter the Senate chamber with a weapon?</p> <p>i. If so, please list the circumstances.</p> <p>n. Who made the decision to station the AFP officer in the attendant's room of the Senate?</p> <p>i. Were any other locations considered?</p> <p>o. There is a longstanding tradition in the Westminster system that arms are not to be carried in the Parliament. Is the decision to place an armed AFP officer in the Senate therefore considered a significant deviation from established norms?</p> <p>p. Is there a security plan in place for the event of an incident in the Senate chamber?</p> <p>i. Will senators receive a briefing on the security plan in the event of an incident in the Senate chamber?</p> <p>ii. If so, when?</p>			
2	Senate	Wong	Staffing	Have any redundancies occurred in 2014-15 to date? If so, how many are (a) voluntary (b) involuntary?	written		

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3	President of the Senate	Ludwig	Parliament House threat assessment	<p><b>The PRESIDENT:</b>...Secondly, advice has been sought on a more formal basis for a renewed security threat to the building. Can I stress that the renewed security threat assessment of the building is merely to get it into a more formal structure, because that is an ongoing thing. We have constant updates about threats to the building of a verbal nature. This is now to formalise that and partly to satisfy the leaders and crossbench senators from that last briefing that I gave them.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> Is that a threat assessment you have asked for, and when did you ask for that?</p> <p><b>The PRESIDENT:</b> That was asked for within the last—</p> <p><b>Senator LUDWIG:</b> I am happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>The PRESIDENT:</b> It would have been within the last fortnight; certainly over a week ago. I can get the exact date, if you need the exact date. That has been formally requested.</p>	p. 3	16/3/15	
4	PBO	Wong	Information requests	<p><b>Mr Bowen:</b> No, figure 2 is response time. Figure 3 is the average punctuality. We define that by defining the number of business days late the request is received.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> If we could have the answer on notice, I would appreciate that.</p> <p><b>Mr Bowen:</b> I am sorry—which answer is that?</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> You have taken on notice who the 49 comprise.</p> <p><b>Mr Bowen:</b> Yes.</p>	Hansard Page 15 23 February 2015		
5	PBO	Wong	Staffing	<p>1 Have any redundancies occurred in 2014-15 to date? If so, how many are:</p> <p>a Voluntary</p> <p>b Involuntary.</p>	Written	18/3/15	
6	DPS	Wong	AGS expenditure	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> You referred to advice from the AGS in your opening statement?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Can you tell me how much you spent on that advice and who</p>	19-20		

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				<p>authorised the expenditure?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> Yes, I can. I will refer that to Ms Croke.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> The total cost to date that we have spent with AGS on this is \$83,000.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Is that \$83,000 to date?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> That is \$83,000 up to last Wednesday.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Up to last Wednesday, and it is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> Until the matter is resolved, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> What was the total envelope that was approved?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> I might have to take that one on notice.</p>			
7	DPS	Lundy	Feedback on parking at Parliament House	<p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> How many have you received on the issue of parking across all input channels?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> We do not have the number with us. I think I have received personally around three written comments. But I am very happy to provide further detail.</p>	25-26		
8	DPS	Lundy	Parking validation through the Parliament Shop	<p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> What I am interested in is the cross-subsidisation of the shop. We have been through, a number of times, the changes to the shop, the expansion of the shop, and how that has not been without some controversy in its own right. Now you are telling us that you are going to effectively underwrite it through an incentive on the paid parking system. So it will pretty much guarantee that however it looks it will look better than it otherwise would have if you did not create that paid parking voucher system—or what do you call it?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> Validation parking.</p> <p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> Validation; thank you. How much do you think you will be able to make extra at the shop by doing that?</p>	27		

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				<p><b>Ms Hanley:</b> It is too early to tell. I do not have the statistics of the number of tickets that we would have validated, but we could get that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> You could?</p> <p><b>Ms Hanley:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator LUNDY:</b> That would be helpful.</p>			
9	DPS	Wong	Application of Fringe Benefits Tax	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Can I have a list, please, of who you believe is affected by the FBT and who is not. By category, perhaps, might be best.</p> <p><b>The PRESIDENT:</b> And providing that list is given and the fact that that is a belief and assumption at this point in time—</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> I understand the caveats. But presumably, by the time you provide it, it would have been clarified.</p> <p><b>The PRESIDENT:</b> One would hope.</p>	35		
10	DPS	Wong	Forward estimates expenditure	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> The portfolio additional estimates statement says DPS has been provided with an additional \$127 million over the forward estimates and also supplementation for a voluntary redundancy program. Of the \$127, I think \$111 million is in the current financial year. Is that right?</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> That \$111 million is in administered, and there is \$2.7 in departmental.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How much of that money has been spent to date and what have you been spending it on?</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> The majority of that, except for \$1.6 million which is for voluntary redundancies, is in relation to the NPP for security upgrades.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How much has been spent to date?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> We do not have an up-to-date figure on how much has been spent to date. I can take that on notice and get that to you very quickly. It is fair to say, though, that it is not a significant amount yet. As in any significant capital project, there is a lot of lead time</p>	35		

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				and a lot of preparatory work. Most of the expenditure has been on things like design, architecture, structural engineering et cetera. We are expecting to have a significant amount of that expenditure out the door before the end of this financial year.			
11	DPS	Bernardi	Security rostering	<p><b>CHAIR:</b> So the people entrusted with Parliament House security are in some instances required to be on their feet for 16 hours—on more than one occasion, I would presume, over the course of a week?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> Yes. Again, because of the very rapid change in the environment, that was the only way we could provide the required level of security for personnel here. But we have been reducing that through recruitment, and we are able to reduce that further now that we have additional funding. We are having an independent review of our rostering to make sure we minimise unreasonable demands on staff.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> How many of the security personnel would be required to work those double shifts?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> It is hypothetical.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> It is not hypothetical. How many have been required to work double shifts?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> We can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> And how often are they required to work a double shift in the course of their weekly duties?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> It depends on the activity in the precinct. For example, during a sitting week it could be quite frequent.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> I am interested in the detail. You might want to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> Absolutely.</p>	37		
12	DPS	Wong	Security screening	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Given the current environment, would you, in hindsight, agree that the security-screening trial—where screening was relaxed—was a mistake?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> It was done in an environment different from the one we have now. At the</p>	37		

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				<p>time we felt it was an appropriate trial. We still think that, but obviously in the currently climate we would not make such changes. The world has changed and we have adapted our policies to reflect that.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> When was that trial?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> I will have to get the dates, but it was in the first half of 2014.</p>			
13	DPS	Wong	Redundancies	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Is it correct that the staff member who had been the subject of the Privileges Committee matter has been made redundant?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Was that a voluntary or forced redundancy?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> Voluntary, as I understand it.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> That was quite a conditional comment.</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> To my knowledge it was, but I do not want to—</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> I am sure someone here must know whether it was voluntary or compulsory.</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> I do not know. I will have to check.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> But you said that you thought that it was. If you do not know, Ms Mills—we do not expect you to know everything—you can take things on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> I said, 'I thought', and I have clarified that I am not sure and am checking that out.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Were you involved in the redundancy?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> Only in the sense that I sign off on all redundancies. Can I take it on notice—because I am not sure about that specific case?</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Sure. How much more have you received for redundancies in the current financial year?</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> Approximately \$1.6 million.</p>	37-38		

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				<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Is that in table 1.4 of the additional estimates statement?</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> It is in table 1—and included in table 1.4, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How many staff are intended to be made redundant?</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> We have sought funding on the basis of approximately 15 to 17, depending what we can afford.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How many to date?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> We have had six to date.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How many of those were involuntary and how many were voluntary?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> Since 1 July 2014, all six were voluntary and we have had one involuntary one in the same period.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Six plus one or five plus one?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> Six plus one.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Six voluntary and one involuntary. I do not suppose we know who the involuntary one was. Is that the question I was asking previously?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> I do not have that information.</p>			
14	DPS	Wong	Redundancies	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Ms Croke, I think you said six voluntary and one involuntary. Since when?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> Since 1 July 2014 up until 30 January 2015.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How many were made redundant between September 2013 and July 2014?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> I have numbers for the full 2013-14 financial year.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Which is?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> A total of 24 staff had voluntary redundancies in that period.</p>	39		



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				<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Could you on notice break that down further?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> Yes.</p>			
15	DPS	Wong	Temporary staff	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How much have you spent on temporary staff since July 2013, and in the current financial year—so, the previous financial year and the current financial year?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> I am not sure I have that here. I will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> You do not have that?</p> <p><b>Ms Croke:</b> No.</p>	39		
16	DPS	Wong	Employment categories	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Which categories do you use?</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> In terms of employees, we have ongoing, non-ongoing, part time, casuals and sessionals, I believe. Then we have what we call contractors in a permanent employee type of—</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> They only work for parliamentary sitting? Is that what sessional means?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> They work for a portion of the year—generally six months of the year.</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> And then on top of that we have non-ongoing contractors—people we might get in on a temporary basis through recruitment companies. They are generally to fill short-term voids. And then there are consultants whom you might bring in to do specific pieces of work.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Why don't you give me, then, on notice, those categories for both 2013-14 and the current financial year to date in terms of head count and expenditure. If that matches up with your system, that is the easiest thing to extract, I would think.</p> <p><b>Mr Wright:</b> Correct.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Thank you. That will be fine.</p>	39-40		

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17	DPS	Wong	Status B costs of area 1D1	<p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Senator Heffernan keeps asking about office refurb. What is he talking about? Is this your office, Ms Mills?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> My office is part of the area that was refurbished, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> When was that done?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> I think we moved into that area in September 2014.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> What was the total cost of that?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> And the blow-out figure might assist Senator Wong as well.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Do you know that?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Yes, we have covered this in estimates previously.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Sorry; I missed it.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> The area in question is known as 1D1. It is an area above the Hansard area in the Senate wing. The project had two components. We are slightly different here, because it is not like a traditional fit-out project you would do in a building that somebody else owned. So, you have some of the base building components as well, which you would generally not have to consider.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Unless you owned the building.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> Unless you owned the building, correct.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> It is not that unusual.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> The total amount for the fit-out was split into two discrete amounts.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Yeah, I get it.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> The base building amount was a final cost of \$1,081,781. And the fit-out component—the actual office area component—had a final figure of \$2,153,661.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> So, \$3.2 million in total.</p>	40-41		

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				<p><b>Mr Skill:</b> That is right.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> How many offices?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> It is accommodating 25 staff plus the Secretary's office.</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> And several DPS-wide meeting rooms.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Have you ever provided figures as to how much is specifically for the Secretary's office?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> I do not think I would be able to break that down—although I could try—because it is a status B area. So, there would be some specifics, but it would not be completely—</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> And status B means?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> It means it is a specific area. A member's and a senator's office is status B, so it has specific requirements for the finishes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Is there any other office other than the secretary's in this area which is status B?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> No.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Perhaps you could just give me the status B costs on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> It is similar to all department heads in the parliament.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> Yes, I understand. Thank you.</p>			
18	DPS	Bernardi	Sit-stand desks	<p><b>CHAIR:</b> May I ask one question in regard to this matter. In the refurbishment or anywhere else that DPS has provided new furniture or office equipment or anything else, has anyone received one of those standing desks?</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> How much do they cost?</p> <p><b>Senator WONG:</b> He wants one!</p>	41		

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				<p><b>CHAIR:</b> I probably do, but I want to know how much they cost. I want value for taxpayers' money.</p> <p><b>Ms Mills:</b> I actually do not know.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> The sit-stand desks are a variant of a standard workstation. They normally cost 20 to 30 per cent more than a standard workstation. But I can confirm that.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> I would like, please, on notice, the number of sit-stand desks and their individual costs.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> For DPS?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> For whatever areas are administered. It might be for DPS, it might be for the Parliamentary Library, it might be for—</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> Anything that we have purchased?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> That is right.</p> <p><b>Mr Skill:</b> No problems.</p>			
19	DPS	Bernardi	Mobile phone use	<p>On 3 December 2014, Malcolm Farr reported that readers could send a text message to a certain mobile number if they wanted to voice their views on higher education reforms. The article stated that “the Labor Opposition will forward all messages – for and against – to Mr Pyne.”<sup>[1]</sup></p> <p>The phone number was 0477 333 555.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is (or was) this mobile number linked to a government-funded phone? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If the mobile number is linked to a government-funded phone, please provide the costs attributed to this mobile number.</li> <li>b. If the mobile number is linked to a government-funded phone, please provide details as to who the phone is registered to.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written		

<sup>[1]</sup> Malcolm Farr, ‘Your chance to text Education Minister Christopher Pyne’, [News.com.au](http://News.com.au), 3.12.2014.

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				c. If the mobile number is linked to a government-funded phone, please provide a copy of the bill for this phone account.			
20	DPS	Bernardi	PH security staff	<p>1. On how many instances have Parliament House security staff had to work 14-hour shifts?</p> <p>a. For the above instances, were these shifts undertaken on a voluntary or forced basis?</p> <p>2. On how many instances have Parliament House security staff had to work more than one shift in a 24 hour period?</p> <p>a. For the above instances, were these shifts undertaken on a voluntary or forced basis?</p> <p>3. What are the Department's expectations for breaks for Parliament House security staff? (e.g. an hour break per shift or some other arrangement)</p> <p>4. On how many instances were Parliament House security staff not allocated breaks during their shifts?</p> <p>5. How many complaints has the Department received from Parliament House security staff regarding any matter related to their shifts and breaks?</p> <p>For all of the above questions (1-5), please provide figures for the past 12 months, broken down into monthly figures.</p>	Written		
21	DPS	Wong	Staffing	<p>Have any redundancies occurred in 2014-15 to date? If so, how many are</p> <p>a. voluntary</p> <p>b. involuntary?</p>	Written		
22	DPS	Wong	Consultation on changes to security arrangements	How have building occupants and, where relevant, their workplace representatives, been consulted on changed security arrangements in Parliament House including the introduction of armed patrols?	Written		

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23	DPS	Wong	Coalition Advisory Service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can an itemised list of all equipment provided to the Coalition Advisory Service since 18 September 2013, including associated costs, be provided?</li> <li>2. What total (a) mobile telephone and (b) data communications costs have been incurred?</li> </ol>	Written		