

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Security rostering**
Question: **11**
Hansard Reference **p 37, 23 February 2015**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

CHAIR: 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?

Ms Mills: 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.

CHAIR: How many of the security personnel would be required to work those double shifts?

Mr Skill: It is hypothetical.

CHAIR: It is not hypothetical. How many have been required to work double shifts?

Mr Skill: We can take that on notice.

CHAIR: And how often are they required to work a double shift in the course of their weekly duties?

Mr Skill: It depends on the activity in the precinct. For example, during a sitting week it could be quite frequent.

CHAIR: I am interested in the detail. You might want to take that on notice.

Mr Skill: Absolutely.

Answer

The number of double shifts worked varies from week to week. On average, during sitting weeks, there are 16 instances per week where a double shift is worked. On non-sitting, this average is 8.

Double shifts are not normally used in the creation of a weekly roster. There is no requirement for a Security Officer to accept a double shift. Double shifts are offered only when operational demands require – such as when a fellow Security Officer notifies DPS at short notice that they cannot undertake their rostered shift, and there is no other option to ensure coverage of that post.