

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Cuttingredtape.gov.au website

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 140

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Can the Department please provide the costs of the ongoing maintenance of cuttingredtape.gov.au, year-by-year over the forward estimates?
- b) With reference to the answer provided to Senate Question on Notice 289 which stated that there were not any PM&C staff whose sole or predominant responsibility was to create content for the site, or to look at comments and submissions to the cuttingredtape.gov.au website: Has this arrangement changed at all?
- c) If no to b), how many staff are there in the Office of Best Practice Regulation and the Office of Deregulation? Can the Department confirm none of the staff members have any specific duties in relation to the cuttingredtape.gov.au website?
- d) If yes to b), can the Department advise how many staff are involved with the cuttingredtape.gov.au website?
- e) Referring to Senate Question on Notice 289, where it was stated that no MoP(S) Act staff are responsible for creating or approving content for the website – has this arrangement changed at all?
- f) Is the Prime Minister, or the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for creating or approving content for the website?
- g) Did the Prime Minister, or the then Parliamentary Secretary, or either of their offices, provide input into the design of the website?
- h) Has there been any change to the deregulation policy agenda, or guidelines, or any other operations in relation to deregulation, including the cuttingredtape.gov.au website, as a result of a new Parliamentary Secretary coming in?
- i) Given that the website quotes a \$2 billion savings figure which includes a number of regulatory savings that are either no longer Government policy or will no longer provide the savings originally claimed, when will the website be updated?

Answer:

- a) The cuttingredtape.gov.au website sits on existing Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet infrastructure. It is updated as required using existing departmental resources.

- b) No.
- c) As at 18 March 2015, the Office of Best Practice Regulation had 23 staff and the Office of Deregulation had 25 staff. Staff within the Office of Deregulation have responsibility, amongst their other duties, to update material contained on the cuttingredtape.gov.au site.
- d) N/A.
- e) No.
- f) Yes, some material is developed by the Prime Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, such as speeches, video and media releases.
- g) See (f) above. There was also some informal consultation with the Parliamentary Secretary's office about presentation and layout of these and associated materials. PM&C is not aware of any involvement of the office of the Prime Minister.
- h) The Government's deregulation agenda has continued under the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister appointed in December 2014. An update relating to the change of Parliamentary Secretary appeared on the website soon after the change and a comprehensive progress report on the agenda was posted on 18 March 2015 as part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day.
- i) The website was updated on Repeal Day, 18 March 2015.