

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: Integration and Efficiency Taskforce

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: The Integration and Efficiency Taskforce—how many people are employed in that?

Ms Kelly: Between 150 and 180, approximately. That is substantially the finance and administration area of the department.

Senator LUDWIG: So it has been renamed?

Ms Kelly: It was named to reflect the fact that the department is currently integrating the new functions that were acquired in September 2013. We expect that integration to be complete by 30 June. That would be revisited then. It is 130 FTE.

Senator LUDWIG: The efficiency part is obviously the bean counters.

Ms Kelly: Yes, that is correct. It is the finance and administration area.

Senator LUDWIG: You are putting the two bits together. There was always one bit; you have just renamed it.

Ms Kelly: It is more than "putting together"; we are integrating. Part of that integration is the corporate services improvement program. So, it was not just a question of adding bits together. We had 10 departments brought together, nine new and the existing PM&C. So we actually had to create what the best systems were for us going forward as a department. That meant integrating rather than just bunging 10 together, so to speak. There is a substantial body of work that sits behind that task force, and the integration task will be completed by 30 June.

Senator LUDWIG: Are they on track to complete that by 30 June? I should be able to ask you in the budget round of estimates about that.

Ms Kelly: I think it is fair to say that the department was somewhat preoccupied with the G20 for the last several months of last year. That did put some of the projects behind, but we have taken measures to bring them back on track, so we are hopeful that we will still complete that. But some of the measures are longer-term measures that are occurring across government, such as a whole-of-government grant system. So, some of them are contingent on developments occurring elsewhere in government.

Senator LUDWIG: Matters like a whole-of-government grants system: would I ask you those, or elsewhere?

Ms Kelly: Those matters would be for the Department of Finance.

Senator LUDWIG: Is the work schedule that the integration efficiency task force has at the moment available? Do they have a document that you just described—maybe you could provide it on notice—to just outline the type of work they are currently working on and the deadlines they are going to meet by 30 June?

Answer:

Set out below is an outline of the type of work underway in the Corporate Services Improvement Programme which will be completed by 30 June 2015.

| Initiative | By 30 June 2015 |
|---|--|
| Address difficulties in working across two networks | There will be a single intranet available to all staff regardless of which network they are on. |
| Reduction of multiple passwords | Maintaining multiple passwords to key corporate systems such as the human resources (HR) system will progressively be reduced from April 2015. |
| Providing improved corporate services | A service management tool will be delivered to reduce the manual processing burden upon corporate functions such as finance and HR. |
| Being able to keep records using an electronic system | A compliant Electronic Document Records Management System will be available for use. |
| Improved procurement procedures | Some automated procurement processes will be in place and available for use. |
| Improved on-boarding and exit procedures | Some automated processes will be in place and available for use. |