

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Question time

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: 350

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1) How many officers are responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of Question Time?
- 2) How many officer hours are spent each sitting day on preparing that information? a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
- 3) Are drafts shown to the Minister or their office before Question Time? a. If so, when does this occur? b. How many versions of this information are shown to the minister or their office?
- 4) Does the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
- 5) Provide each of the contents page of the Minister and representing Minister's Question Time folder prepared by the department for the week of 11 February 2014.

Answer:

- 1) – 4) The Australian Public Service Commission together with Ministerial staff routinely prepare Question Time briefing material for the Minister. The specific detail requested is not readily available and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.
- 5) Information on briefing provided to Ministers will not be made publically available in order to maintain agencies' ability to properly and effectively brief Ministers.