

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 354

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?
2. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?
3. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?
6. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?
7. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer:

(1) to (5) The Department's IT system does not capture this information in a way that would make it readily available. A manual process would be required to provide a response which would involve an unreasonable diversion of employee resources

(6) The Department's Financial and HR Delegations govern the appointment of contract staff.

(7) The use of contract staff complements the workforce of the APS by providing short term, flexible labour hire at times of high workload or staff absences. Contract staff may also provide a level of expertise for technical positions that are not widely available from within the APS.