

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Appointments

Senator: Senator 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 7 September 2013?
- (2) How many temporary or contract staff were employed since 7 September 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) Nil
- (2) The Office has not employed any temporary or contract staff between 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014.

(3) Nil

(4) Nil

(5) Nil

(6) The Office's Recruitment and Selection Guidelines govern the appointment of contract staff. Contract staff are only to be employed as a last resort, where suitable ongoing or non-ongoing employees are not available or an appropriate option.

(7) The use of contract staff affords a level of flexibility and provides for contingencies to manage fluctuations in demand and workforce availability.