

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Staff reductions – SES Band 1s

Senator: Senator the Hon John Faulkner

Question reference number: 36

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator FAULKNER: The known outcome is to reduce from 30 to 20. Is that what you mean?

Mr Neal: In the SES band 1 cohort, yes.

Senator FAULKNER: When was that known?

Mr Neal: I do not know the answer to that question. I will have to find out.

.....

Ms Kelly: Even the staff who are not affected become concerned. I am just very conscious of what we say and not to add to that.

Senator FAULKNER: I appreciate that and I understand those sensitivities. I also appreciate that, at the end of the day, officers of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet are implementing budget decisions that are made by government. I understand that. But of course I could say to you that, if it was a reduction from 30 to 22, there would be fewer people impacted. I am just trying to understand when the decision was made, the timing of the decision for 20. That is where we have been for the last five minutes. It is still entirely unclear to me.

Ms Kelly: I think we will need to take that on notice. Obviously it has been an iterative process. As we have understood the changes in the budget, we have looked at the best structure to accommodate a new program arrangement and a new regional servicing model for our Indigenous programs and Indigenous service delivery. So it

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has been an iterative process. I do not think we could give you a date today, but obviously the discussions have been informed by changes in the budget.

Answer:

11 May 2014.