

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—November 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Departments: Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Public Service Efficiencies**

Question No: **145**

Written: **Senator Ludwig**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
2. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
3. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
4. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
5. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer

1. No, however just 5 business class trips (1 international, 4 domestic) were undertaken for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2013. In respect of these 5 trips, in each case the traveller was entitled to business class travel as part of their remuneration package. As the need for business travel over the forward estimates period has not yet been quantified, no estimate of savings is currently available.
2. No, however the need to engage consultants and contractors is carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. Further, as the need for consultants and contractors over the forward estimates period has not yet been quantified, no estimate of savings is currently available.
3. All recruitment advertising is now online. As future recruitment levels over the forward estimates period is currently unknown, no estimate of savings is currently available.
4. Yes, printing costs were substantially lower for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2013, when compared with the same period last year.
5. No savings are expected over the forward estimates period in addition to those previously reported and achieved.