

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of the Senate**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

**18 – 21 November 2013**

**Question: 40**

**Topic: Public Service efficiencies**

**Written: 26 November 2013**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

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

**Answer:**

As a parliamentary department, the department is not part of the Australian Public Service and, therefore, efficiencies applied to that service do not directly apply to the department.

Nonetheless, the department has gained efficiencies in its operations, for example, through online recruitment, streamlining of printing, e-records, and greater use of online resources.