

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Public Service efficiencies

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 176

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

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. Business flights for core departmental functions have reduced. The savings over the forward estimates are unable to be quantified as budgets are not maintained at this level.
2. Yes. Reductions in the use of contractors and consultants are being achieved by utilising the broad range of skills within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). This has impacted the timeliness of delivery and PM&C is more selective with projects undertaken. This also reduces the reliance on external parties for the provision of services. Budgets are not set to the level of detail required to quantify the savings over the forward estimates.
3. PM&C uses online recruitment advertising only. The savings over the forward estimates are unable to be quantified as budgets are not maintained at this level.

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4. PM&C has reduced its printing costs through greater reliance on online publishing.
5. PM&C is on track to achieve the five per cent savings target in 2013-14 through use of the whole of government contracts. The savings over the forward estimates will equate to five per cent of PM&C's appropriation.