

**Question:** 65

**Topic:** Savings and efficiency measures

**Written:** 31 October 2014

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

Since the Appropriation Bills 2014 were passed by the Parliament:

1. How many measures, savings tasks or efficiency measures contained in the Appropriation Bills have not been actioned or have had no guidance instructions issued?
2. For each measure or task identified in question 1:
  - a) What is the timeframe for implementation?
  - b) Who is the responsible agency for actioning these measures, guidelines or tasks?
  - c) When was the Minister last briefed on this item? Was this briefing requested by the minister or initiated by the department?
  - d) What action has the minister asked be done on this policy?

**Answer**

The department was advised of a savings measure by the Department of Finance in June 2014. The measure related to communications staff in departments and agencies. The measure can be found on page 113 in Budget Paper 2 [http://budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/bp2/html/bp2\\_expense-12.htm](http://budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/bp2/html/bp2_expense-12.htm) .

Since being advised of this saving measure, the President of the Senate and the Appropriations and Staffing Committee has had ongoing correspondence with the Finance Minister seeking an exemption from this measure.