

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. BE17-192

Senator Pratt, Louise asked the following question on 28 August 2017:

The Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court in the 2016 annual report commented that the “timely replacement of retiring judges is critical to the Court’s ability to deal with its workload”.

1. What steps have been taken to fill judicial vacancies/positions in the Federal Circuit Court?
2. When will those judges be replaced? Why haven’t they been already?

The Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court said in the 2016 annual report that additional judges were needed to cope with increased jurisdiction, greater volume and increasing length of trials.

3. Will additional judges be appointed to this Court?

The response to the honourable Senator’s question is as follows:

1. The Federal Circuit Court has no current vacancies.
2. See answer 1 above.
3. The appointment of judges is a matter for the Government.