

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
24 May 2017**

Home Affairs Portfolio

**Question number and title: BE17-163 - Australian Federal Police Staffing
Reduction**

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

1. The 2017-18 Budget Paper 4 (see page 130 "Staffing of Agencies") indicates there will be a reduction of 151 personnel to the AFP's average staffing levels between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (see http://budget.gov.au/2017-18/content/bp4/download/Budget2017-18_BP4.pdf)
 - a. Did the AFP request a reduction in staff?
 - b. When was this reduction first forecast?
 - c. Please provide predicted breakdown of the levels and category (Sworn/PSO/Unsworn) of personnel who the AFP predicts will form this reduction in staffing.
 - d. Has the AFP consulted with the Minister regarding this reduction?
 - e. Is there a reason why the average staffing level has been reduced?
 - f. Is this reduction in any way attributable to the reduced budget for the AFP in 2017-18?
2. Please provide forecast average staffing level in the AFP for the years:
 - 2017-18
 - 2018-19
 - 2019-20
 - 2020-21

Answer:

- 1a. No
 - 1b. The 2017-18 ASL was determined in the 2017-18 Budget.
 - 1c. Reductions in staffing reflect the areas relevant to the terminating measures through the forward estimates, in addition to lower priority areas. External recruitment has been restricted to critical and specialist positions.
 - 1d. Agency resourcing decisions are made by Government each year in the Budget.
 - 1e. The reduction is predominantly the result of movements in the AFP's cost recovery activities, the impact of Efficiency Dividend, general cost pressures and budget measures. The terminating measure after 2016-17 financial year that results in a reduction of staff is NAGS, which was actually extended with additional funding resulting overall in a reduction of 14 ASL.
 - 1f. Refer to 'e' above
2. The estimated ASL 2017-18 is 6,137. ASL estimates are published each year in Budget Paper 4.