

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 84

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- 1. How will the efficiency dividend be applied in the 2011-12 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook be implemented in your agency/department?**
- 2. What percentage of your budget must be cut?**
- 3. Will any staff positions be cut to meet the efficiency dividend? If yes, provide details of where the positions are located, the classification, whether the position is ongoing or not.**
- 4. Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.**

Answer:

1. The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) is considering the source of savings for the 4 per cent efficiency dividend in 2012-13. Hard choices may need to be made to preserve the capability of the APSC, noting that consultancies, travel, official hospitality, training and legal costs are not a large portion of the ongoing appropriation funded activities of the APSC.
2. The increase in the efficiency dividend by 2.5 per cent in 2012-13 represents a reduction of 1.2% in total funding from all sources for the APSC. (Approximately 50% of the APSC's funding is derived from fee for service activities such as, training courses).
3. At this stage the source of savings to meet the 2012-13 efficiency dividend are yet to be determined.
4. The Commission operates within a balanced budget and adjusts spending across its activities as required to, wherever possible, sustain the core business as usual activities and to provide some capacity to respond to changes in priorities or emerging issues.

The APSC is examining all of its expense items, including staffing, to identify savings to meet the requirements of the efficiency dividend.