

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Senate Estimates briefing

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 191

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. How many officers were responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?
2. How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
3. Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?
4. Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
 - c. When were the changes made?
5. Provide each of the contents page of the Department/Minister/representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.

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Answer:

A number of staff across the department are involved in preparation for Senate Estimates hearings as part of their duties. In the lead up to the hearings the department provided briefs to the Prime Minister's Office and to Ministers representing the Prime Minister in the Senate.

To attempt to provide the level of detail sought in the questions 1 to 4 would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Information on briefing provided to Ministers is not normally made publicly available in order to maintain agencies' ability to properly and effectively brief Ministers.