

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: Red tape reduction

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 195

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target? How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
7. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
8. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

1. A deregulation unit for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has been established within the Programme and Support Division.
 - a. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, outlined PM&C's progress against the red tape reduction target on 19 March 2014.
2. Current staffing for the deregulation unit comprises: 1 x SES1, 1 x EL2, 2 x EL1 and 1 x APS6, all FTE.
3. Deregulation unit staff were recruited internally.

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4. Deregulation unit staff were found through a combination of departmental restructuring to reflect machinery of government changes and an internal expression of interest process.
5. The deregulation unit is resourced from existing departmental funds.
6. All members of the deregulation unit with appropriate clearance and an identified work need have access to Cabinet documents.
7.

Officer Level	Security Classification	Date Issued
SES1	Baseline/ Protected	28 January 2009
EL2	Baseline/ Protected	24 March 2010
EL1	Baseline/ Protected	14 April 2008
EL1	Baseline/ Protected	30 June 2012
APS6	Baseline/ Protected	24 October 2008
8. The formal name of the unit within PM&C is the Deregulation Unit.