

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: Staff reductions and redundancies

Senator: Senator Zed Seselja

Question reference number: 40

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. What are your current and forward plans for staff reductions, including redundancies?
2. How many of these reductions and redundancies relate to efficiency dividends applied over the last three years?
3. How many of these reductions and redundancies relate to decisions made in the 2013 Budget, or earlier, to cease or terminate programs?
4. If redundancies have been offered, when was the decision made to offer these redundancies?

Answer

1. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is planning to restructure and reduce its staffing profile to meet budgetary and programme delivery challenges. The existing Efficiency Dividends continue to place pressure on the PM&C budget over the forward estimates. On 27 March 2014, a voluntary redundancy round was commenced to assist in meeting these pressures. The total number of voluntary redundancies required will be significant although an exact number has not yet been determined.
2. See answer to question 1.
3. See answer to question 1.
4. Voluntary redundancies were announced on 27 March 2014.