

# **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:** Job losses

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 55

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Did the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), Dr Watt, advise PM&C staff on 14 February 2014 that PM&C could not afford to maintain its present staffing levels and that job losses were inevitable?

Can a copy of the Secretary's remarks be provided?

How many jobs will be lost as a result of already announced efficiencies?

#### **Answer:**

At an All Staff Meeting on 14 February 2014, Dr Watt advised that in response to the impact of ongoing efficiency measures, PM&C, like many other agencies, would need to reduce staffing numbers. Dr Watt indicated that the reductions would be achieved through a range of mechanisms, including voluntary redundancies.

Various efficiency measures applied to the Australian Public Service (APS) have impacted PM&C over recent years. The 2012-13 MYEFO announced savings of \$549.5 million over four years from 2012-13 from public service operating efficiencies. The 2013-14 Budget announced an additional \$226.8 million worth of public service savings over four years. Further, the 2013 Economic Statement increased the efficiency dividend on APS agencies from 1.25 per cent in 2013-14 to 2.25 per cent for three years starting from 2014-15.

Addresses to All Staff Meetings are not recorded so a copy of the remarks cannot be provided.

The number of job losses required to meet the efficiency dividend will depend on a range of factors, including the classification profile of staff who seek voluntary redundancies.