

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES (ADDITIONAL HEARINGS) 2013-2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Senate Estimates Briefing

Senator: Senator 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? 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

Answer:

- (1) One Executive Level 2 officer was primarily responsible for the preparation of the Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates.
- (2) The Office does not record officer hour data in a way that would readily allow it to answer this question without an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- (3) The Office forwarded a final copy of the briefing pack to the Minister's Departmental Liaison Officer on Monday, 24 February 2014.
- (4) The Minister or their office did not make any contributions, edits or suggestions to the Office's final copy of the briefing pack.
- (5) Information on briefing provided to Ministers is not normally made publicly available, in order to maintain Office's ability to properly and effectively brief Ministers.