

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM61

Topic: Staffing - efficiency dividend/budget cuts

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: 2

- a) **Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?**
 - i. **Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?**
 - ii. **Since additional estimates?**
- b) **If so, where and at what level?**
- c) **Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.**
- d) **If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say 'improvement to strategic work practices' or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?**
- e) **What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target number etc.**

Answer:

- a) Staffing numbers change in response to Government funding priorities, turnover, secondments and a range of other factors. The department received additional resources for new functions in 2010-11.
- b) n/a.
- c) There are no plans for staff reductions.

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- d) The department pursues opportunities for savings and efficiencies on an ongoing basis through a range of measures including supplier, contract and administrative overheads.
- e) The department plans to employ 30 graduates in 2011. This is consistent with the number of graduates employed in 2010.