

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Senator: Ryan

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 p108).
2. In addition, please provide the following detail:
 - Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?
 - Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?

Answer:

1. As per the announcements by the Finance Minister, these savings are to be sourced through:
 - reductions in air travel
 - reductions in the use of external consultants and contractors
 - by placing recruitment advertising online only
 - by publishing online only where possible and
 - Standardised procurement terms and conditions and better procurement price outcomes (these savings are to be derived through initiatives led by the Department of Finance and Deregulation).

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The reduction in funding from this budget measure has been allocated across the groups of the APSC and each group will make devolved decisions on the best means to meet these savings targets.

2. Regarding estimated savings by implementing more efficient management structures please refer to Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from Finance and Public Administration Committee, 29 May 2013.

For building leases, the leases for the APSC two main offices are due to expire after the forward estimates.

- Levels 5 and 6, Aviation House, 16 Furzer Street, Phillip ACT - lease expires March 2022. During 2012, to meet the additional one-off additional 2.5% efficiency dividend, the APSC consolidated its office locations in the ACT into the head office at Aviation House. There is no further savings that can be achieved through increasing the density of office space.
- Level 22 580 George St, Sydney NSW - lease expires July 2017.

The APSC also leases a third office at level 1,12 Moore Street, Civic ACT, which houses the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT). This tenancy contains offices for the DFRT members, a hearing room and meeting rooms. This tenancy is only utilised when hearings of the DFRT are held in Canberra, as the DFRT secretariat are based in the APSC's head office. The lease for this tenancy expires in March 2016. Decisions are yet to be made about the future requirements of the DFRT so any potential savings are yet to be quantified.