

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(11) Output: Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (L&CA 16) asked:

Provide a figure on how much DIAC spends on the recruitment of staff.

Answer:

Recruitment agencies generally invoice a sum total, rather than an itemised account. The sum total can include payments for internal audit fees, contractor fees, training and recruitment fees and payments that are effectively salary payments for contractors. This prevents the department from being able to distinguish between salary and administration (including recruitment) costs paid to employment agencies.

It is not possible for the department to respond to this question without the diversion of significant departmental resources. To determine the total cost the department would need to individually examine each invoice from each agency to identify those items that relate to engaging the services of employment agencies. The department is investigating options to improve its capacity to report on this expenditure.