

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 135

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
2. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
3. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
4. Has the agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
5. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. The number of business class flights for quarter 1 of 2013/14 has reduced by 36% compared to quarter 3 of 2012/13 which was the period reported on for the previous Question on Notice on this subject. Savings for each year over the forward estimates cannot be provided as budgets are established each financial year based on the AFP's operational tempo at the time.
2. Yes. The AFP has reduced its contractors and consultants expenses by \$1.2m in 2012-13, as disclosed in the AFP Annual Report.

The AFP is encouraging more efficient work practices and reducing the need for and the use of external consultants and contractors, including converting contractor roles to staff. Continued reporting and monitoring of expenditure activity in these target areas is positioning the AFP to achieve the expenditure reductions in non-employee expenditure, broadly against the categories identified while minimising the impact on operations.

Savings for each year over the forward estimates cannot be quantified as budgets are established each financial year based on the AFP's operational requirements and will vary.

3. For the period 1 September to 31 November 2013 there has been nil printed advertising undertaken. Advertising of general vacancies is 100% online. In the future the AFP is expecting to undertake a very limited amount of print advertising for:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's cadetship and traineeship - Koori Mail and National Indigenous Times.
 - Graduate Program – graduate specific advertising in targeted brochures.

4. The reduction in printing costs will be achieved through reviewing operational needs, utilising existing in-house printing facilities where possible; revise purchasing methods to ensure economies of scale are realised, ongoing usage analysis and publishing on-line where possible.
5. In 2013-14 the AFP reduced its printing budget, in line with the approaches outlined in question four, and expects these savings to continue over the forward estimates. Savings are expected across the forward estimates, but are not able to be quantified.