



Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

On 30 May 2024 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator Walsh said in relation to the number of conversions of contractors into APS employees that the department has made:

"What can you tell us about those conversions of contractors into APS employees? Do you have some numbers on that?"

In response I said:

"We've converted 44 contractors to ongoing employees in this financial year to date."

Which I then later corrected to:

"I apologise, I need to correct the record. I said that we have converted 44; we have actually converted 53 external contractors. There has been a decrease of 44 contractors since 30 June 2023, but 53 external contractors have actually been made ongoing APS employees."

I wish to clarify this answer. From 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, 53 contractors were converted to APS employees. These conversions were not all ongoing placements, but a combination of ongoing, non-ongoing and casual.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Ms Tess Bishop
Chief Operation Office and Deputy Secretary, Portfolio Strategy and Services Group
21 June 2024