



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**Deputy Secretary**

Ref: EC21-000479

Senator Tim Ayres  
Chair  
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 31 August 2021 in relation to the staffing profile of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Secretary is currently in quarantine, having returned recently from overseas and has asked that I respond on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in response.

The department does not collect information on the staffing profiles of portfolio agencies. Average staffing levels for portfolio agencies are published in the annual Portfolio Budget Statement for Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee may seek this information direct from portfolio agencies.

1) The department's staffing profile at 1 July 2021:

	Headcount	ASL
APS Ongoing	3,840	3,576.2
APS Non-Ongoing	114	89.9
DFAT APS	3,954	3,666.1
Labour Hire Staff		Unable to provide
Other Contractors (includes contractors, consultants and outsourced service providers)	988	Unable to provide

2) The department does not track 'labour hire' as a workforce category. Rather, the department categorises its 'external workforce' as contractors, consultants or

outsourced service providers, which includes expertise provided under labour hire arrangements.

3) Details of contracts entered into and valued at \$10,000 or more, including the total value, description, contract term and any increases in contract value, are publicly available on the AusTender website at [www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Harinder Sidhu  
Chief Operating Officer  
Deputy Secretary

5 October 2021