

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

2019 - 2020

Division: Foreign Investment Division
Topic: Staff
Reference: Written

Question:

How many staff are employed in the foreign investment division of Treasury?

- a) What are their roles?
- b) What training do staff undertake?

Answer:

As of 30 April 2020, the Division has 98 full time equivalent staff which includes staff redeployed from other agencies.

(a)

Their roles are to:

- assess foreign investment applications and provide advice to the FIRB and the Government in relation to national interest issues;
- undertake compliance activities;
- provide legal advice on the application of the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act;
- provide advice on policy settings;
- undertake analysis of sector wide developments;
- manage the Division's ICT systems and processes, including the Case Management System;
- manage the Division's compliance with internal and external reporting obligations including preparation of the FIRB annual report and the annual Regulator Performance Framework;
- maintain and analyse data holdings;
- manage staff capability needs, recruitment, induction, learning and development requirements;
- undertake business improvements including to case management processes.

(b)

The Division dedicates specific resources to ensuring that people receive the learning and development required to perform their roles.

Training for new starters includes on-boarding which includes generalised modules that are completed by all new starters, and also role specific modules covering the content and processes relevant to different parts of the Division.

Case officers also receive specialised on the job support through a dedicated 'case coach', who supports new case officers with technical advice and guidance.