# Senate Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

## Inquiry into the capability of Defence's physical science and engineering workforce – 12 February 2016

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Department of Defence

**Topic:** ICT Historical Data

**Question reference number:** 3

**Senator:** Gallacher
**Type of question:** 12 February 2016, Hansard page 22
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 March 2016

**Question:**
CHAIR: I have a summation of your submission here. The figures I have are: in July 2015, there were 14,534 ADF members working in the engineering and technical domain and 2,815 ADF members working in the ICT domain. So what I think the committee may well be assisted by is if you could give us some historical data on that. Is that a static figure, is it a grown figure or is it a declining figure? You can take that on notice.
Ms Skinner: Unless it is buried in here—which would waste your time while I hunt for it—
CHAIR: I hope you can get that on notice.
Ms Skinner: Yes, we will take that on notice

**Answer:**

Since 1 July 2013, the Australian Defence Force workforce for Engineering and Technical (E&T) and Information Communications Technology (ICT) have both increased; the E&T workforce has increased by 214 from 14,320, and the ICT workforce has increased by 100 from 2,715.

# Senate Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into the capability of Defence's physical science and engineering workforce– 12 February 2016

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

**Topic:** Submarine Practitioners and Naval Architects

**Question reference number:** 5

**Senator:** McEwen
**Type of question:** Friday, 12 February 2016, Hansard page 28
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 March 2016

**Question:**
**Senator McEWEN**: I have some specific questions about naval architects. I am not sure who this would be for. How many in-house submarine specialised practitioners and naval architects work in Navy and CASG?
**Rear Adm. Uzzell**: If I could, I will deflect that one to CASG specifically in relation to submarines. I employ in my organisation naval architects general.
**Mr Devlin**: We will take that question on notice.
**CHAIR:** Are there any?
**Ms Skinner:** Yes.
**Senator McEWEN:** Is it—
**Ms Skinner**: It is not thousands, Senator.
**Senator McEWEN**: Is it less than 10?
**Ms Skinner**: Yes.
**Senator McEWEN**: If you could take that on notice, then.

**Answer:**

The total number of Defence Australian Public Service employees who hold Naval Architect qualifications and undertake Naval Architect duties is 28. Of these, 16 are within Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group and 12 are within Navy.

Inquiry into the capability of Defence's physical science and engineering workforce – 5 February 2016

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

**Topic:** ICT Outsourcing

**Question reference number:** 6

**Senator:** Gallacher
**Type of question:** asked on Friday, 5 February 2016, Hansard page 22
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 March 2016

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** I just want to get a picture of whether that is static. Obviously, you are doing an excellent job of bringing in a lot of people and you have given us some technical skills. If we look at the triangle that was spoken about of APS and the private sector, it is a growth engine of technical skill and when people leave the services they have places to go. I just wanted to see whether that was on the incline or the flat, or the decline. In particular, in the ICT area, I know through my involvement in another committee, that the land terrestrial communications platform was rolled out around all the bases—quite a significant investment—and I was just curious about how that is maintained and serviced, and whether that is outsourced? If the National Security Committee will not let Huawei, which is one of the leading companies in the world in its space, participate in the NBN in Australia, I was just curious about how you dealt with that particular aspect of your security and communications.
**Ms Skinner:** I could answer generally. My own background is from the intelligence community. The national security considerations come into play in the conversation around private sector involvement in particular programs. That said, there are many programs that have national security issues associated with them that include contractors and other private sector players.
**CHAIR:** It is that underpinning more people in the ICT area?
**Ms Skinner:** I would rather take that on notice for Peter Lawrence, but the general point would be yes and no. Quite a number of contractors have high-level national security clearances, so we work in that way as well.
**CHAIR:** I just want to get a bit of a picture of that.
**Ms Skinner:** It is a continuum, if you like, and security clearances are not just contained to the Commonwealth officer whether they are in a uniform or suit.
**CHAIR:** I think that is quite important to have that as evidence and if you take it on notice and bring to us it will be in our deliberations. I think your figures were for successive governments and that is clear they have asked you to reduce your 22,000-odd down, and it is now down to 18,000. What my research here says is that the overall APS PSE workforce has gone from 10,500 in 2013 to approximately 9,800. They have shared in about a 18 per cent of the losses of the 4,000.

**Answer:**

The operations of Telecommunication Services provisioned by the Chief Information Officer Group for Defence, transitioned on 18 April 2013 from a staff augmented model and multi-contract providers to an outsourced managed services arrangement provided though our Strategic Partner in Telstra. The Chief Information Officer Group Service Delivery Managers govern, audit, quality assure and compliance check the services provided by Telstra. Telstra delivers, operates and manages technical and service management functions such as networks, carriage and telephony to all Defence Estate, Defence international sites and other entities that Defence undertakes business with.

Defence manages the security issues associated with Defence's use of external service providers through the Defence Industry Security Program (DISP), which includes security reviews of its ICT supply chains, vendors and products. The DISP accredits external service providers and engages with providers on security issues throughout the life of their working relationship with Defence. Specifically the process ensures accredited external service providers meet Government security requirements and that Defence information and assets are provided the appropriate level of protection.

There are also a number of mechanisms for external service providers to be considered for a Government security clearance. Australian Government agencies can sponsor an external service provider for a security clearance where the agency has a requirement for an individual to access sensitive or classified information or resources.