

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 38

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000144

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 65-66 (12 February 2024)

Topic: Airservices – number of staff who took up the retirement incentive scheme

Senator Raff Ciccone asked:

Senator CICCONE: Just to go back to the retirement scheme, you offered an incentive?

Mr Harfield: Correct.

Senator CICCONE: What was that incentive?

Mr Harfield: That incentive was the equivalent of what would be a redundancy.

Senator CICCONE: As per, what, the EBA?

Mr Harfield: Yes, as per their enterprise agreement. It was the equivalent amount of around what would be a redundancy. As a result, we had to apply to the Australian Taxation Office because it was only eligible to those who were eligible for retirement as of 1 July 2021.

Senator CICCONE: That was mid-2021?

Mr Harfield: Correct.

Senator CICCONE: So what, around the June, July period, is it those months?

Mr Harfield: The tax ruling was just before that for the tax treatment. Because of the tax treatment, all those people who were eligible to retire had to depart the organisation in the financial year 2022—so between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022.

Senator CICCONE: How many took up that offer?

Mr Harfield: Off the top of my head, around about 140.

Senator CICCONE: Can you take it on notice for a more accurate number, please

Answer:

A total of 144 employees on the Air Traffic Control Enterprise Agreement accepted a Retirement Incentive Scheme offer, of which 116.5 FTE were operational air traffic controllers.