

**Question on notice no. 286**

**Portfolio question number: SQ23-005139**

**2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates**

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie:** asked the Airservices Australia on 2 November 2023—

- (1.ATCs who are on long service leave?
- 2.ATCs who are on long-term leave for ill-health?
- 3.Middle managers who are doing administrative/supervisory duties rather than being "at the controls"?
- 4.What about ATCs who are working through long-term health issues? Are they counted?
- 5.What about a person who was getting treatment for leukemia? Would they be still counted?
- 6.How is the shortage of ATCs impacting on general aviation, such as parachuting and ballooning?

**Answer —**

Please find answer attached

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024**

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**Committee Question Number: 286**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005139**

**Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia**

**Hansard Reference: Written (02 November 2023)**

**Topic: AIRSERVICES - Air Traffic Controllers on long service leave and health issues**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. ATCs who are on long service leave?
2. ATCs who are on long-term leave for ill-health?
3. Middle managers who are doing administrative/supervisory duties rather than being “at the controls”?
4. What about ATCs who are working through long-term health issues? Are they counted?
5. What about a person who was getting treatment for leukemia? Would they be still counted?
6. How is the shortage of ATCs impacting on general aviation, such as parachuting and ballooning?

**Answer:**

1. 10 full time equivalent as of 20 November 2023.
2. 26 full time equivalent as of 20 November 2023.
3. 2 full time equivalent as of 20 November 2023.
4. An air traffic controller with a long-term health issue is included in the total number of controllers if they have an air traffic control licence and a valid Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Class 3 medical certificate prior to the long-term health issue.
5. An air traffic controller absent from work while undergoing treatment for leukemia would be counted until they no longer held an air traffic control licence and a valid CASA Class 3 medical certificate.
6. Where there is a reduction in staffing levels, for example, a short-term unplanned absence, Airservices will implement a service variation to maintain safety. This could affect commercial airlines and/or general aviation operators depending on the air traffic movements at the time.