

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 177(a)**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Red Tape Reduction**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail changes to structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
  - (a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit?
7. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
8. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
9. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

1. The portfolio has in place a Regulatory Reform Unit which coordinates, and works to implement, initiatives to meet the Australian Government's red tape reduction targets in the Communications and the Arts portfolio. Resourcing for the Regulatory Reform Unit, including staffing levels and classifications, varies from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action. The Regulatory Reform Unit is, and will continue to be, staffed from existing resources.
  - a. The government publishes an annual report which provides details about progress towards its red tape reduction target. The government has released the *Australian Government Annual Deregulation Report 2014* (tabled in Parliament on 18 March 2015 and available at <http://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au/australian-government-annual-deregulation-report-2014>) and the *Annual Red Tape Reduction Report 2015* (tabled in Parliament on 15 March 2016 and available at <http://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au/annual-red-tape-reduction-report-2015>).
2. See answer to question 1.

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3. See answer to question 1.
4. See answer to question 1.
5. See answer to question 1.
6. See answer to question 1.
7. Regulatory Reform Unit members have access to cabinet documents commensurate with their respective security clearances.
8. See answer to question 1.
9. The Regulatory Reform Unit.