

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 304
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Machinery of Government - staff transfers
Hansard Page: 37
Question Date: 04 March 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: In the October estimates, Dr de Brouwer, you said that around 150 staff from the water division had moved to the agriculture department.

Dr de Brouwer: Yes.

Senator SINGH: Can you now confirm those staffing numbers are unchanged, and what was the cost of transitioning them from your department to the agriculture department?

Dr de Brouwer: In general, when a group moves over the costs are not significant. Because of the policy integrity they just move over as a bunch. They had been doing their work in the environment department and working with us, more generally. They are now working in the agriculture department. The administrative costs associated with creating their IT system over in agriculture are really a matter for that department. That is not something that we are privy to. Then there are our administrative costs of working through what the transfer is. I will come back with that on notice.

Senator SINGH: What about the staffing numbers? Are they unchanged—is it still a 150?

Dr de Brouwer: I think so. I will come back with that on notice. I do not have that at hand. But I suspect so; there is no reason why it would be different now to what we advised in October.

Answer:

149 staff members were transferred from the Department of the Environment as a result of water responsibilities transferring to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The costs associated with the transfer of water responsibilities are outlined in Question on Notice 303.