

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

**Question No:** 123  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)  
**Topic:** CONTRACT PERIOD  
**Hansard Page:** 8  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Senator URQUHART: ..... What has been the average contract period for those staff and how many were engaged through a recruitment agency?

Ms Carlos: I do not have that information with me. I'll have to take it on notice.

Dr de Brouwer: I might just observe that a lot of the National Parks and the Australian Antarctic Division recruitment will occur through their own recruitment processes rather than additional departmental processes.

Ms Carlos: As a general rule our non-ongoing staff are obtained through advertising through the gazette process, not through contract agencies or head hunters. But we do use them occasionally.

**Answer:**

The average contract period for 304 non-ongoing employees who commenced with the Department between 1 July 2013 and 30 April 2014 is 30.0 weeks. This calculation excludes non-ongoing contracts with the Australian Antarctic Division due to special circumstances governing the contracts of Antarctic expeditioners.

The Department does not keep a central record of the number of employees engaged through a recruitment agency as recruitment of non-ongoing employees is devolved to individual divisions within the Department.