

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

**Question No:** 332  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division  
**Topic:** STAFFING  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

In response to QoN231 in May, the Department advised that it intended to shed 290 staff by 30 June of 2014.

1. Is that figure still accurate?
2. Did this occur, what was the final figure of job cuts for 2013-14?
3. How much of that was achieved by voluntary redundancies and how much by other reductions?
4. What was the cost to taxpayers of the VR packages?
5. Which areas of the Dept did these [290] jobs come from? Which areas of responsibility are now moving more slowly or have been put on the backburner for lack of staff?
6. Does this carry over to this fin year, ie increasing this year's cuts above the planned 140?

**Answer:**

1. Yes
2. 369 ongoing employees ceased employment with the Department during 2013-14.
3. Of the 369 ongoing employees who ceased during 2013-14, 177 accepted a voluntary redundancy, 139 occurred through natural attrition, 47 left as a result of a Machinery of Government Change and six ceased following the completion of their temporary transfer to the Department.
4. The cost of redundancies in 2013-14 was \$24.064m.
5. Staffing reductions occur across all areas of the Department. The effect of these reductions is reviewed regularly by the Department to ensure the most efficient and effective use is made of resources to meet the Department's objectives. Redistribution of resources occurs from time to time to meet changing priorities.
6. The Department is on track to meet its planned staffing reduction in 2014-15 and moving into 2015-16.