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Mr Tim Bryant  
Committee Secretary  
Economics Legislation Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Bryant

Further to the comments made by the ABS during its appearance before the Economics Legislation Committee at the Additional Senate Estimates Hearing on 14 February 2013, the ABS wishes to provide a clarification.

The Statistician, Mr Pink indicated that the ABS hoped to deal with the reduction in demand for the Interviewer workforce primarily through voluntary redundancies, but did not rule out the possibility of some involuntary redundancies.

The ABS would like to clarify the terminology used regarding voluntary and involuntary redundancies. Interviewers are not employed under the *Australian Public Service Act* but have a separate ABS Interviewers Enterprise Agreement. That agreement does not differentiate between voluntary or involuntary redundancies. Under this agreement, the same provisions apply regardless of whether the redundancy is employee or employer initiated. The ABS has sought Expressions of Interest from Interviewers who wished to be considered for a redundancy as part of the current process to manage the Interviewer panel size that was referred to by Mr Pink.

ABS has consulted with CPSU and affected Interviewers on the process to achieve the required redundancies, including through redundancies that could be either employee or employer initiated.

If you require further information please contact Richard Burgess, Director of Communication and Ministerial Liaison on phone (02) 6252 7197.