

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
3-4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Recruitment - Economic and Analytical Services

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 31)

QUESTION No.: BI-37

Senator KIM CARR: I notice that there have been recruitments in the Office of the Chief Economist. I do not want to know the details. I do not want to know the individuals names. I would like to know the process by which appointments were made and the APS levels of the appointees.

Ms Beauchamp: I might ask the Chief Economist to come to the table, but—

Senator KIM CARR: You can take it on notice. I do not mind.

Ms Beauchamp: We will take it on notice. In general terms, what I have been trying to do is seek secondments from other agencies so that we can get people coming into the department from outside. But also, if there is a permanent appointment, it is subject to the normal merit selection processes.

Senator KIM CARR: I am particularly interested, in terms of the recruitment freeze, the exemption for the Office of the Chief Economist. How was the selection process managed for that appointment?

Ms Beauchamp: For which position, sorry?

Senator KIM CARR: I understand an SES position, Band 1, General Manager.

Ms Beauchamp: There are a few positions in that area. I will have to take that on notice specifically in terms—

Senator KIM CARR: If you would not mind. How was it managed and was there a selection panel?

Ms Beauchamp: I will take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Were there any declarations of conflict of interest from members of the panel?

Ms Beauchamp: I will take that on notice as well.

ANSWER

A merit selection process was conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation. The Australian Public Service (APS) Commissioner endorsed the selection process following the selection panel's recommendations.

The selection process was managed in accordance with APS interim recruitment arrangements. Due to the specialised nature of the position, and after establishing that there were no suitable displaced employees, the department sought approval from the APS Commissioner to advertise to the wider community. Approval was obtained on 11 March 2015.

The selection panel comprised 3 members, including an APS Commissioner representative who was involved in all stages of the process. The APS Commissioner representative certified the process was conducted in a fair and efficient manner in accordance with merit requirements. No conflicts of interest were identified from members of the panel, therefore no declarations were necessary.