

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15  
14 November 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Contracts for Temporary Staff

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Ludwig

**QUESTION No.:** SI-172

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How much did the Department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff?
2. How many temporary or contract staff have been employed?
3. What is the total number of temporary or contract staff currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. Have there been any changes to the policies/criteria that govern the appointment of contract staff?

**ANSWER**

Details/figures on contracts for temporary staff for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 October 2014:

1. Payment of temporary or contract staff is managed by each division, the information is not held centrally, to provide this level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. 68 for varying periods of time. We employed 32 non-ongoing employees between 1 July – 31 October 2014 and 36 contractors between 1 July – 30 September 2014. We do not currently have data for contractors employed during the month of October.
3. As at 31 October 2014, there are 188 non-ongoing temporary employees active within the Department.
4. Payment of agencies/companies for the employment of temporary or contract staff is managed by each division, the information is not held centrally to provide this level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
5. There has been no change to the policies/criteria that govern the appointment of contract staff. As advised in Interim arrangements for recruitment in the Australian Public Service - Guidance for agencies dated 22 September 2014,

‘These arrangements do not apply to contractors/labour hire, which will be regulated by budget considerations. Consistent with the principles of these arrangements, agencies should not use contractual arrangements where it would be more appropriate to engage staff as APS employees. It is expected that these arrangements would be used sparingly.’

The policy for temp vacancies is at [www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/interim-recruitment-arrangements](http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/interim-recruitment-arrangements) if you want to refer to it.