

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question No: 245

Topic: ATO contractors / Staff movements for the Tax Practitioners Board

Reference: Hansard page 56 (19 October 2016)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Senator KETTER: Are you able to provide information about the number of people working at the ATO who are outsourced workers or the employees of firms contracted by the ATO? [...]

I am particularly interested in employees of third parties—contractors.

Ms Curtis: I do not have the actual numbers of outsourced staff we have. I do have the breakdown the commissioner just talked about. I can tell you that 93.4 per cent of our staff are ongoing employees, three per cent are non-ongoing employees and the remainder are what we call 'casual' or 'intermittent' staff. But they are people who are actually on our books. The outsourced number I do not have with me. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KETTER: That is the number I am looking for. Can you tell me how many staff have left the Tax Practitioners Board in the last three years?

Ms Curtis: I think we will have to take that on notice. I do not have that detailed breakdown with me today.

Answer:

The ATO has outsourced limited activities to ensure that it can provide contemporary service to our clients. For example, there are currently outsourcing contracts for both payment and paper capture and some telephony services. As these arrangements are based on the service level agreement, the outsourced provider determines the number of workers required to meet these.

Refer to SBT 287 for staff that left the Tax Practitioners Board over the last three years.