

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Information Technology – Replacement**

Question: **261**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

On page 23 of the Department of Parliamentary Services’ 2014-2015 Annual Report, in the “divisional highlights”, the first mentioned point states:

“Parliamentarians’ offices received replacement ICT equipment, selected from a wider range under a new model that allows parliamentarians to customise their ICT equipment to meet their individual requirements.”

1. Can the Department of Parliamentary Services explain how much has been expended to deliver this to date?
2. How many parliamentarians have received replacement equipment?
3. Please detail the method of allocation and prioritisation of projects, for example, is there a progressive list working through based on the age of existing infrastructure, or was it offered to individual parliamentarians, or some other basis?
4. Are any Members of the House of Representatives or Senators and their staff using equipment that would be regarded as being “out of life”?
5. If so, why is this the case given the allocation of capital expenditure to information technology over recent years?

Answer

1. Costs of the 2014–15 refresh program were:

Device Type	APH Location Numbers	Electorate Office Location Numbers	Unit Cost*	Total Cost
Desktops	296	729	\$ 854.00	\$875,350
Monitors	294	1070	\$ 324.00	\$441,936
Mono Printers	36	314	\$1,798.00	\$629,300
Colour Printers	3	39	\$3,190.00	\$133,980
MFP	43	0	\$ 2,200.00	\$94,600
Laptops	151	111	\$ 1,603.00	\$419,986
Total	823	2,263		\$2,595,152**

* Unit cost for each device type is averaged for the refresh program and includes additional warranty (Laptops), laptop bags, retention of non-volatile storage, freight, The Department of Finance Central Administration Fee and cables.

** ICT equipment allocated to APH suites and personal staff of Members and Senators is provided from DPS’ budget allocation. Equipment purchased for Electorate Offices is provided in accordance with the Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990 and associated regulations, and funded through a specific delegation of funds from the Department of Finance.

Since the 2014–15 refresh was completed normal equipment refreshes have continued. The cost of these to 29 February 2016 have been:

Device Type	APH Location Numbers	Electorate Office Location Numbers	Unit Costs*	Total Costs
Desktops	107	182	\$ 854	\$246,806
Monitors	161	211	\$ 324	\$120,528
Mono Printers	0	109	\$1,798	\$195,982
Colour Printers	30	7	\$3,190	\$118,030
MFP	189	0	\$ 2,200	\$415,800
Laptops	133	77	\$ 1,603	\$336,630
Total	590	586		\$1,433,776**

*Unit cost for each device type is averaged for the refresh program and includes additional warranty (Laptops), laptop bags, retention of non-volatile storage, freight, The Department of Finance Central Administration Fee and cables.

** ICT equipment allocated to APH suites and personal staff of Members and Senators is provided from DPS' budget allocation. Equipment purchased for Electorate Offices is provided in accordance with the Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990 and associated regulations, and funded through a specific delegation of funds from the Department of Finance.

2. All 226 standing parliamentarians and 7 former Prime Ministers received replacement equipment for some or all of their ICT equipment as of end of the 2014–15 financial year as part of a major refresh project. Since then equipment has continued to be upgraded within the ICT entitlement when requested.
3. A new ICT entitlements model was approved by the Presiding Officers on 8 October 2013. This model is used as a basis of all ICT allocations for Parliamentarians.

Following the 2013 Federal Election, ICT conducted detailed analysis of the age and serviceability of existing devices. Devices eligible for allocation or replacement were identified and added to a replacement schedule.

The replacement schedule was based on geographical groupings of Electorate Offices and the availability of engineers to deliver, install and remove equipment from these locations. The Electorate Offices refresh began in June 2014 and was completed in December 2014.

The refresh of ICT equipment in Parliament House suites started in September 2014 and was completed in February 2015. Priority was given dependent on the availability of the technicians, the date requested and client availability. New Members and Senators were given initial focus and the provision of smart phones to ensure effective communications was the first priority.

Between major refreshes, replacements are determined by the useful life of equipment. In most cases useful life is nominally set to warranty periods (all PCs, monitors, printers have a warranty of 4 years, and mobility equipment such as smart phones, tablets and wireless cards, have a warranty of 2 years). Where equipment is still in good working order and performing to a sufficient level the equipment may be kept in service.

4. Some offices are using equipment that is regarded as being over its nominal useful life; however these devices remain serviceable. Refer to question 3 and 5 for more information.
5. As indicated above, core equipment is scheduled for replacement based on useful life. When core equipment reaches the end of its useful life but is still fit for purpose, DPS may employ a number of strategies to extend the life of the asset. These strategies may include extension of the warranty or moving to a break-replace model. This allows economies of scale in planning and costs related to refresh activities.

Catalogue equipment is eligible to be disposed of and re-credited to a Parliamentarian's ICT allowance at the end of useful life. Where equipment has exceeded its useful life it may be that

the office had requested not to replace the item (core) or have chosen to extend the use beyond end of life rather than dispose of it (catalogue).

Parliamentarian's offices have a view of their core and catalogue ICT equipment through the ParllCT portal. When a catalogue item reaches the end of its useful life, parliamentarians can contact DPS ICT and dispose of this item, in this case the cost against that item will then be re-credited to the office's ICT allowance. The office can choose to replace the item 'like for like', choose another item from the ICT Catalogue or bank the funds for use at a later point in time.

Replacement of core IT equipment in both Electorate Offices and APH is managed by and coordinated by DPS through annual refresh plans linked to budget cycles.

All Parliamentarians and their nominated staff can view the projected end of useful life for all core and catalogue equipment through the ParllCT portal and can at any time trigger disposal and replacement for eligible equipment through tools embedded in the portal page.