

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 1/1.1
Topic: Calculating the Defence budget

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F151

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 90- 91, 20 November 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: So, for the Defence budget, they estimated and entered into the central budget management system 2014-15 figures for salaries and wages that showed an average increase of 3.89 per cent over the forward estimates. That is what they estimated, I assume—and then it ends up in your system. So I take it you take those numbers from them and plug them in. Is that how it works?

Mr Clively: They would have been the numbers at budget time.

Senator LUDWIG: Are you able to confirm that I am right about those figures? Because the growth in Defence salaries and wages budgeted for a 3.89 per cent increase over the forward estimates.

Mr Clively: I would have to look the number up.

Ms Halton: We are happy to take that on notice ...

Answer:

1. This is not an estimate, it is data input by the Department of Defence (Defence) into CBMS for planning purposes only, as was explained by Defence in evidence to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee at its Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on Wednesday 22 October 2014 (Hansard page 44).
2. No, Finance does not use or modify the Defence planning figures, because Defence data in the central budget management system is treated as part of a global budget.
3. Further questions relating to those figures should be referred to the Department of Defence.