

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2016**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **PSS staffing shortages**

Question: **13**

Hansard Reference **p 22; 17 October 2016**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016**

**Senator WONG:** I think the secretary has conceded there have been times you have been short on shifts. How many times have you been short?

**Mr Cooper:** We will take that on notice, Senator.

**Answer**

To provide a response that indicates how many times the Department has not been able to fill all shifts or 'is short on shifts' over a period would involve a considerable diversion of resources. This is because the only way the information could be compiled is by manually checking through every roster and making judgements about when the Department has been 'short on shifts'. This could include circumstances when:

- points have not been able to be filled at all (and what period is counted, i.e. not filled for an hour or two or for a day); or
- when points have been filled by offering overtime at short notice; or
- when points have been filled by rostering overtime; or
- when rosters have been filled by offering extra shifts.

It is, however, reasonable to state that Security Branch has experienced daily instances where operational demand has exceeded available resourcing. While a shortfall in staffing capacity is undesirable, security posts are staffed according to risk to ensure the safety and security of Parliament House and its occupants.