

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 263

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

1. How many officers are responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of Question Time?
2. How many officer hours are spent each sitting day on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
3. Are drafts shown to the Minister or their office before Question Time?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information are shown to the minister or their office?
4. Does the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
5. Provide each of the contents page of the Minister and representing Minister's Question Time folder prepared by the department for the week of 11 February 2014.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is tasked by the Attorney-General's Department with preparation of question time briefings for Ministers on an 'as required' basis. The number of staff affected will differ on any given day and is not readily quantifiable.
2. Officers do not record or attribute their time in a way that would enable this information to be provided.
3. Question Time Briefs are provided to the Minister's office sufficiently prior to question time each day. Question time briefs are reviewed and updated regularly throughout sitting periods to ensure information remains accurate.
4. Yes.
 - a. On some occasions the Minister's office will make edits to question time briefs and seek AGD/AFP review of any amendments to ensure that factual information contained within the brief remains accurate.
 - b. Officers do not attribute their time in a way that would enable this information to be provided.
5. The Question Time Brief index is constructed by the Minister's office, not by the AFP.