

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program: Portfolio**

**Question No. AE16/092**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail changes to structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
2. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
3. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
4. How have they been recruited?
5. What process was used for their appointment?
6. What is the total cost of this unit?
7. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
8. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
9. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
10. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

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

1. The Attorney-General's Department has established a Regulatory Reform Unit (previously called the Deregulation Unit) for the portfolio. That Unit sits within a team in the Strategy and Delivery Division (SDD).
2. The Government is reporting on its progress at [www.cuttingredtape.gov.au](http://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au).
3. As at 15 March 2016, the Regulatory Reform Unit within SDD is supported by a Senior Executive Service Band 2, an Executive Level 2 and an APS6 officer, all of whom have responsibilities for work other than red tape reduction.
4. Staff have been transferred from other areas of the Department
5. See the response to question 4 above.
6. Normal salary applicable to the roles.
7. See the response to question 6 above.
8. Yes.
9. Officers have appropriate security clearances for the material they are accessing.
10. The unit is called the Regulatory Reform Unit. It was previously called the Deregulation Unit.