

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

**Group: 3**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. BE15/095**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing:**

Budget Paper No.4 reveals that 115 jobs are expected to be lost in 2015-16, can the AFP provide details as to:

1. Where these job losses are expected to come from including;
2. Which state and
3. Which division of the AFP
4. Whether the reduction in staff numbers will result primarily from voluntary redundancies or compulsory redundancies?
5. Whether the reduction in staff numbers will impact AFP operations?
6. How much is expected to be saved by the reduction of staff?
7. How are those savings going to be redistributed?
8. Will the savings be redirected into other aspects of AFP operations, be redirected towards other policy priorities or redirected towards the budget bottom line?
9. Does the reduction in staff numbers accurately reflect the reduced need for AFP personnel as a result of the conclusion of operations such as the G20, the Asia World Cup and the Cricket World Cup?
10. Is this the reason for the staff reductions or are there other factors such as budgetary concerns?
11. Was there an increase in staffing numbers as a result of these operations?
12. If yes, was the expectation that any increase in staff numbers as a result would only be short term?

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

- 1-3: AFP staffing is expected to reduce by 115 FTE from 6,402 in 2014-15 to 6,287 in 2015-16 as per page 133 of Budget Paper No. 4. The reduction is comprised of -103 FTE in Outcome 1 (Investigations or General Duties) and -12 FTE in Outcome 2 (ACT Policing). However, given that the AFP will manage the reduction in staff through natural attrition (see question 4 below), it is not possible to confirm where the reductions are expected to come from (from which State and from which division of the AFP). Importantly the 2014-15 Budget papers had an ASL level of 6,239. Following a significant injection of resources in MYEFO, the projected ASL went to 6,487 in 2014/15 Additional Estimates. Following long planned cessation of short term only financing for G20, Asia Cup and the Cricket World Cup ASL has reduced to 6,287 (still is higher than 1 year ago).
- 4: The AFP will manage the reduction in staff numbers through natural attrition. Natural attrition was 2.07% in 2014-15, which equates to approximately 132 FTE. Voluntary redundancies will however, remain a part of normal workforce adjustment as business as usual activity.

5. The AFP's internal budget process will continue to allocate resources based on operational priorities. The reduced staffing levels will also be reflected in AFP case prioritisation deliberations to ensure any impact is minimised. Any reduction in staffing however, will impact upon the AFP's ability to surge in response to critical Government priorities should they arise.
- 6: There was no requirement to make savings – this reduction is a result of aligning staffing with the AFP's overall budget as additionally reflected in the AFP's 2015-16 forward estimates. The variation in the AFP's budget reflects the ongoing efficiency requirements, as well as the cessation of a number of one-off measures such as the G20, Cricket World Cup and Asia Football Cup.
- 7: See response to question 8 below.
- 8: As per the previous response to question 6, given that the AFP's overall budget has reduced, the reduction in staff does not provide savings that can be re-allocated.
9. Yes. The reduction to AFP's FTE was forecast as a result of the cessation of major events, including the G20, Cricket World Cup and Asia Football Cup, as these were one-off measures funded until completion of the events.
- 10: Further to the termination of one-off events, the staff reductions are a result of additional factors such as the impact of the efficiency dividend, which also reduces staff affordability. The total staff reductions required by the AFP are offset by the new measures announced as a part of the 2014-15 MYEFO, as well as the 2015-16 Budget.
- 11: Yes, staffing increases in 2014-15 were a result of one-off events funding due to operational requirements arising from Major Events such as the G20, Asia Football Cup and Cricket World Cup.
- 12: Yes, it was always known and planned for within the AFP budget that the increase in staffing for these events would only be short term.