

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 145

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 72

Topic: Dateline – Ta Ann

Senator Abetz asked:

When I am told on 16 October 'as far as I am aware they are satisfied with the process' yet after that hearing I was given a letter addressed to SBS dated 7 September which says: 'Thank you for the apology ... however, I am concerned that the on-air and online clarification and apology made by *Dateline* management does not reflect the strength of the ombudsman's findings, specifically that the totality of the report was inaccurate and misleading. Therefore I ask the managing director to review the online apology and amend it to reflect fully the ombudsman's finding.' It goes on further:

It is appropriate that the program should be removed from the program's website and YouTube. How on earth could Mr Ebeid have been of the view that Ta Ann was satisfied with the process when you must have had this correspondence? After estimates somebody surely would have pointed this correspondence out to Mr Ebeid and said, 'In fact, no, they are not satisfied'. The fact that I am asking here today is indicative of the fact that Ta Ann are not satisfied. How was Mr Ebeid able to say that to us?

Answer:

The letter from Ta Ann of September 7 was received by SBS and led to a range of subsequent management actions carried out as swiftly as possible. These actions were communicated to Ta Ann. The statement 'as far as I am aware they are satisfied with the process' by Mr Ebeid was made on the basis that no further formal complaints were made by any of the complainants after they were given the opportunity to do so.

For the record, further correspondence from Ta Ann subsequent to 7 September did raise some areas of continuing concern to them. SBS responded to those concerns. Ta Ann was given a further opportunity to make a further formal complaint to the SBS Ombudsman which they did not take up.

The statement in question is presumptive that unsatisfied complainants would have taken up the invitation to make a further formal complaint to the Ombudsman. The statement was not intended to play down the significance of their concerns. SBS takes breaches of its codes and guidelines very seriously which is why we have taken the swift action that we have in relation to this program.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 146

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Pages 72-73

Topic: Radio Network

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: In relation to SBS's new radio network which you alluded to in your opening remarks, I understand it is incredibly impressive, now having 74 languages from 68 previously. But I know that in that make-up there are a number of new languages but there are also some languages that have dropped off the radio network. I presumed that decision is made based on the census data of usage of or multicultural population sizes or the like. Is that how you make those decisions as far as what languages to include and what languages to exclude in this new radio network?

Mr Khalil: Thanks for the question. I can just explain to the process that was undertaken. A bit over 18 months ago the board agreed to review the schedule which had not been reviewed for 18 years. Obviously demographics in Australia have changed significantly over almost two decades. There was a real need to address issues and to ensure that a number of new language groups would receive some services that they were otherwise not receiving as they have come into Australia. The board and the management had a very thorough methodology in process which included using the census data in 2011 as the central data point around all the different language groups. Frankly, if we were to try and do our surveying ourselves outside of the census data it would probably cost more than the radio budget in its totality. I think we had quotes for \$40,000, \$50,000 and \$60,000 per language just to do that surveying, so we had to use the census data and that was the main data point.

It is not just based on population out of the census data; we added some weighted categories. For example, for high-needs groups. We added an age weighting, categories around socioeconomic need and status, around English proficiency or lack thereof and a couple of other important categories. I can provide you all the details as you wish, not to take up the time of the committee.

Answer:

SBS has released a new Radio Schedule to be launched on-air in April 2013. The new Radio Schedule will bring the languages broadcast on SBS's analogue radio service into line with today's Australia.

From April 2013 SBS will provide services for more language communities than ever before. SBS will continue producing content in all languages on the current radio schedule and will introduce six new language programs. No languages will be dropped. The total number of language programs on the new SBS Radio Schedule will increase from 68 to 74 language programs. SBS will continue to be the most multilingual radio broadcaster in the world.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

The new SBS Radio Schedule was developed using a language selection criteria supported by 2011 Census data.

In April 2012, SBS Radio released for public consultation the proposed Selection Criteria which outlined how languages would be determined in a review of the radio schedule.

Almost 1,200 responses were received from over 80 language groups. SBS amended the language selection criteria based on the feedback received during the consultation and published the final language selection criteria on 13 June 2012.

Final Selection Criteria – SBS Analogue (AM/FM) Radio

Large Languages Criteria * : population of approximately 20,000 or greater.

High Needs Languages Criteria * :

- Threshold requirement - population must be greater than 1,000
- English language proficiency (weight = 40%)
- Recentness of arrival (weight = 30%)
- Ageing (weight = 15%)
- Household resources and unemployment (weight =15%)

SBS may also include a sizeable ethnic community if its needs are significant but not adequately captured in the Large Language or High Needs Selection Criteria. Factors which SBS may take into account include:

- Discrimination/Vilification: where a group is subject to frequent discrimination or vilification in Australia based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- Immediate need: a significant increase in the population of a language group through Australia's Humanitarian Program.

* Based on ABS 2011 Census data for languages spoken in Australia.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 147

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: Page 74

Topic: *Go Back to Where You Came From* – educational purposes

Senator Singh asked:

The documentary *Go Back to Where You Came From* obviously has been given quite a lot of accolades, and rightly so, in its broad appeal. Do you know how broad that has gone beyond TV; how it is used as a tool for educational purposes, for example, in Australia now?

Answer:

SBS has an Outreach program to extend the impact of SBS's programs by developing new and innovative ways to reach and engage audiences through innovative partnerships with organisations that have an affinity with SBS. Outreach maximises the public and educational value of SBS's content beyond the transmission.

For series two of *Go Back to Where You Came From*, SBS built on the success of the first series, and its knowledge of audience needs. The Outreach program increased the ways in which audiences could engage with the series and highlighted opportunities to get involved beyond transmission. SBS partnered with Amnesty International Australia (AIA) and the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA).

Outreach activity occurred in three key areas:

- School resources – online and print
- Community events – Community
- Opportunities to get involved beyond the series

A series of schools resources was created and made available on the SBS website, and on the partner websites. The schools kit was also mailed to every high school in Australia. The resources, were aimed at secondary schools teachers, and included curriculum relevant activities, clips from the series, case studies and support materials (including references to other relevant SBS content).

The resources have been promoted through ATOM (Australian Teachers of Media), teachers' associations, teachers' unions and other relevant lists. Schools material was also distributed via websites, e-streams and through education and training departments. The school kit has also been sent to a range of different organisations with an interest in the subject matter including language schools, refugee centres, and government departments.

The school resources aim to increase the public and legacy value of the content and will be available online for a period of seven years.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Audiences were encouraged to hold public screenings around the live transmission of the series to increase engagement in the community and generate discussion and debate around the issues raised in the series. Events were promoted online and in social media. Event packs were posted to people who registered their events with SBS, and included discussion notes, posters and feedback information. Around 130 such events were held around the country, attended by refugees, community leaders, people working with refugees and asylum seekers and local media. SBS also provided opportunities for people to engage beyond the series with information on the SBS website about what opportunities were available, for example information on volunteering opportunities with refugee organisations.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 148

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Al Jazeera

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Is SBS aware of Allegations of bias in Al Jazeera English news coverage such as minimising the plight of Coptic Christians in Egypt; and the Shi'ite protests in Bahrain as well as ongoing anti-Israel bias and promotion of Hamas?
2. Is SBS aware that such concerns have been highlighted by recent incidents where journalists have resigned from Al Jazeera English citing lack of editorial independence?
3. Should SBS use Al Jazeera news coverage in light of these alleged biases and the perception that Al Jazeera English is not editorially independent?
4. What steps and safeguards has SBS taken to ensure that the Al Jazeera English news footage shown provides an editorially independent news story?

Answer:

1. SBS is not aware of the details of these specific allegations to make a comment on the two examples provided.
2. SBS does not have sufficient details to make a comment on this matter.
3. Al Jazeera English is an internationally recognised news service. Its journalism is a valuable addition to the resources available to World News Australia, especially its coverage of the Middle East, Africa and Asia, often from places other international news organisations do not cover.

Al Jazeera is one of a number of international news agencies which SBS uses to provide a range of international perspectives in its news bulletins. SBS also sources material from the BBC, CNN, Channel 4 UK, ABC America and PBS.

Material sourced from international news agencies, including cut packages, used in SBS's news bulletins is assessed to ensure it meets the SBS Code of Practice on News and Current Affairs and must meet SBS's standards of accuracy, impartiality and balance as set out in that Code.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

SBS also runs a daily half-hour unedited program of international news from AJE. It is broadcast under Code 3 (Overseas News and Current Affairs) of the SBS Codes of Practice. Code 3 allows SBS to broadcast unedited news and current affairs programs from other sources as long as the source is clearly identified so that audiences can exercise their own judgement about how issues and information are presented. AJE sits alongside other perspectives provided in English by news programs from France 24 (France), PBS (America) and The Journal (Germany) to provide different perspectives from international broadcasters.

4. Refer to answer to (3) above.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 149

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: SBS – Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What steps and strategies has SBS adopted to ensure balanced coverage of issues involving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
2. I understand that SBS subscribes to the perspective that “balance over time” is acceptable? If so, isn’t this position likely to result in biased reports that do not provide the viewer with a balanced understanding of the conflict? Doesn’t this position allow for a lack of balance in individual stories?

Answer:

1. As with any controversial issue, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is subject to special scrutiny and daily examination so it conforms to the most exacting standards of the News and Current Affairs Code in the SBS Codes of Practice. SBS has relatively few formal complaints on its Middle East coverage, given the heavy volume of material transmitted on this issue.
2. Code 2.2 (Accuracy, Impartiality and Balance) of the SBS Codes of Practice provide for SBS News and Current Affairs to achieve balance over time. However, for major issues that are matters of controversy, the Codes of Practice provide that balance should be provided “over the period in which the controversy is active.” The decision as to whether it is appropriate for a range of views or particular views to be included within a single program or story is a matter for editorial discretion, having regard to the circumstances at the time of the reporting and broadcasting, the nature and immediacy of the material being reported, and public interest considerations. This approach is appropriate and necessary for news and current affairs reporting and does not result in biased reports or a lack of balance. SBS is confident that its approach to balance is appropriate and is supported by the fact that SBS’s coverage of the 2012 Gaza-Israeli conflict did not result in any breaches of the SBS Codes of Practice in respect of balance and biased reporting.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 150

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: SBS Complaints Committee

Senator Birmingham asked:

Regarding the SBS complaints policy, the SBS Ombudsman can refer a complaint to the Complaints Committee where a complaint “raises complex issues about a Code”.

1. Under what circumstances will this be done?
2. Specifically what were the circumstances that led to the controversial decision to refer a complaint from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry regarding the series "The Promise" last year? Did the Ombudsman decide to refer the matter to the complaints committee independently or was she asked to do so, formally or informally, by anyone in management?
3. Given that the SBS Managing Director chairs the complaints committee and it consists solely of other SBS managers and executives both answerable to the managing Director (the Director Content (Television & Online); the Director Audio and Language Content; the Director News & Current Affairs; the SBS Ombudsman; and where required, one member independent of the Division being investigated), doesn't this undermine the impartiality of the complaints handling process and natural justice, especially when a complaint would impact the reputation of SBS, as arguably was the case in "The Promise" case?

Answer:

1. Code 8.9 (Complaints Committee) of the SBS Codes of Practice provides that if necessary, the SBS Ombudsman or the relevant SBS division can refer a complaint to SBS's Complaints Committee for further consideration. The Complaints Committee will then review the complaint and any recommendations of the SBS Ombudsman and make an independent determination of whether to uphold or dismiss the complaint
2. A number of the complaints about The Promise raised issues in respect of law, civil liability and legal compliance (e.g. vilification) as well as SBS Code of Practice issues. The legal issues required legal consideration and advice, which was managed by the inclusion of a member of SBS Legal on the Complaints Committee, which was chaired by the Managing Director. It is normal practice that matters are referred to the Complaints Committee where a corporate decision is required as to editorial/policy parameters, including in this case what the corporation treats as a “stereotype” under its Codes of Practice, which must, of course, be subject to legal compliance.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Independently, although for obvious reasons SBS requires that SBS Legal provide advice where questions are raised as to law, civil liability and legal compliance; the Complaints Committee is the mechanism by which SBS Legal advises the Corporation when these issues arise in connection with Codes of Practice complaints, which must be taken into account in respect of otherwise entirely independent decisions.

3. No. SBS notes that the list of attendees referred to is incorrect. In the case of The Promise the Complaints Committee consisted of: the Managing Director, Mr Michael Ebeid; Director, Strategy and Communication, Mr Bruce Meagher; SBS Network Programmer, Ms Jane Roscoe – representing the acting Director, SBS Television and Online Content; Director, News and Current Affairs, Mr Paul Cutler; Director, Audio and Language Content, Mr Dirk Anthony; SBS Ombudsman, Ms Sally Begbie; and SBS Lawyer Lyn Kemmis, representing the SBS General Counsel.

The Complaints Committee is robust and impartial, the outcomes are neither one-sided nor a forgone conclusion as revealed by the results of decisions. For example, since 2007 there have been eleven appeals to the complaints committee against findings of the Ombudsman. The Complaints Committee upheld the Ombudsman five times, and the referring Division six times.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 151

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: In-language Broadcasting

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What changes have been made over each of the last three years to in-language broadcasting on SBS Radio and TV?
2. What languages are no longer broadcast and what new languages are broadcast on both radio and TV?
3. How many hours of each language have been broadcast on both radio and TV for each of the last 3 years and to date this year?

Answer:

The tables below set out details of languages broadcast over the SBS Television and Radio schedule over the last three years: 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

SBS Radio has a direct role in serving Australia's diverse language communities. In recognition of this role, the allocation of airtime to particular languages on the current SBS Radio schedule is based on factors such as the size of the community speaking a particular language and other criteria which are reviewed from time to time in consultation with communities. No changes have been made to in-language broadcasting on SBS Radio over the last three years. Refer to answer to question 146 for information about the SBS Radio schedule review.

SBS Radio – Languages Broadcast (Hours) 2009/10 -2011/12¹

Language	NRN	MELBOURNE	SYDNEY
Albanian	0	2	1
Amharic	1	1	1
Aboriginal	2	3	3
African	1	1	1
Arabic	4	10	14
Armenian	1	2	3
Assyrian	0	1	1
Bangla	0	1	1
Bosnian	0	1	1
Bulgarian	0	1	0
Burmese	1	1	1
Cantonese	5	9	9
Cook Islands Maori	0	1	1
Croatian	2	5	5
Czech	1	1	2

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Language	NRN	MELBOURNE	SYDNEY
Danish	1	1	1
Dari	1	1	1
Dutch	3	4	4
Estonian ²	1	1	1
Fijian	0	1	1
Filipino	4	6	6
Finnish	1	1	1
French	3	5	5
German	4	9	6
Greek	7	14	14
Gujarati	0	0	1
Hebrew	1	2	2
Hindi	1	3	3
Hungarian	2	4	3
Indonesian	2	3	3
Italian	7	14	14
Japanese	1	1	1
Kannada	0	0	1
Khmer	1	4	4
Korean	1	2	4
Kurdish	0	1	1
Lao	1	2	2
Latvian	1	2	2
Lithuanian ²	1	1	1
Macedonian	2	6	5
Malay ³	1	1	1
Maltese	2	7	5
Mandarin	3	7	7
Maori ³	0	1	1
Nepalese	0	0	1
Norwegian ²	0	1	1
Persian-Farsi	1	1	1
Polish	4	8	7
Portuguese	2	4	4
Punjabi	1	2	1
Romanian	1	2	1
Russian	3	5	5
Samoan	0	1	1
Serbian	2	5	5
Sinhalese	1	1	1
Slovak	1	1	1
Slovenian	1	2	2
Somali	1	1	1
Spanish	4	10	10
Swedish	1	1	1
Tamil	1	1	1
Thai	1	2	2

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Language	NRN	MELBOURNE	SYDNEY
Tongan	1	1	2
Turkish	2	7	7
Ukrainian	1	3	3
Urdu	1	1	1
Vietnamese	7	14	14
Yiddish	1	2	2

Key

NRN – National Radio Network

Melbourne – Melbourne AM / FM services

Sydney – Sydney, Canberra and Wollongong AM / FM services

Notes

1. 6am-midnight.

2. The Estonian, Lithuanian, and Norwegian language programs were in recess in 2011-12, broadcasting English language programming.

3. The Malay and Maori programs were in recess in 2010-11 and 2011-12 broadcasting music only.

In respect of SBS Television, the SBS Codes of Practice set out SBS's policy on English and non-English language content. Code 1.4.3 provides:

SBS seeks in its yearly television schedule to achieve a balance between television programs in English and programs in languages other than English.

SBS aims, as far as possible and over time, to provide programs on SBS Television across languages spoken in the community and to present programming from a wide variety of cultural perspectives. Program selection will take into account variations in the availability and quality of programming from different television industries around the world, as well as the need to meet the range of SBS's programming objectives.

SBS Television in-language content is subject to variations in the availability and quality of programming from different sources around the world. Hours of in-language programming over the last three financial years are detailed in the tables below.

SBS ONE & SBS TWO (24 HOURS) – 2011-12

Language	Hrs:Min
Arabic	367:30
Amharic	1:33
Bambara	1:31
Bengali	6:23
Bosnian	7:39
Bulgarian	4:27
Burmese	1:07
Cantonese	310:44
Catalan	6:03
Croatian	212:51
Czech	26:11
Danish	99:26

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Language	Hrs:Min
Dari	7:22
Dutch	194:33
Estonian	3:07
Farsi	24:21
Filipino	373:54
Finnish	15:33
Flemish	8:23
French	1011:26
French Canadian	23:10
Galician	1:25
Georgian	1:57
German	637:45
Greek	596:58
Hebrew	32:23
Hindi	365:20
Hungarian	72:38
Icelandic	9:21
Indonesian	155:47
Italian	547:28
Japanese	536:55
Kazakh	1:17
Khmer	2:44
Korean	496:23
Kurdish	2:11
Luganda	1:03
Macedonian	198:33
Malay	201:47
Maltese	50:15
Mandarin	544:19
Marathi	1:59
Mongolian	3:54
Norwegian	27:09
Pashto	4:39
Polish	323:33
Portuguese	258:41
Punjabi	5:00
Romanian	17:32
Romany	3:11
Russian	357:59
Serbian	186:45

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Language	Hrs:Min
Slovak	2:19
Slovene	189:05
Spanish	856:07
Swahili	1:18
Swedish	112:46
Swiss German	2:56
Taiwanese	3:51
Thai	24:41
Tibetan	4:09
Tigrinya	1:32
Turkish	347:24
Urdu	48:35
Vietnamese	8:41
Zulu	1:16

SBS ONE & SBS TWO (24 HOURS) - 2010-11

Language	Hrs:Min
Afrikaans	1:04
Amharic	5:10
Arabic	409:41
Bambara	3:53
Belarusian	1:04
Bengali	4:20
Bosnian	12:09
Cantonese	328:40
Catalan	6:53
Croatian	207:39
Czech	25:35
Danish	75:55
Dari	10:03
Dutch	218:45
Estonian	1:22
Farsi	28:00
Filipino	378:04
Finnish	15:18
Flemish	10:45
French	1060:09
French Canadian	14:10
Gaelic	1:24
German	611:15

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Language	Hrs:Min
Greek	610:05
Hebrew	37:25
Hindi	367:50
Hungarian	68:19
Icelandic	10:44
Indonesian	156:55
Italian	522:39
Japanese	533:29
Khmer	2:23
Korean	473:05
Kurdish	1:48
Macedonian	204:00
Maltese	51:55
Mandarin	497:32
Marathi	1:53
Maya	2:25
Mongolian	7:04
Norwegian	25:59
Pashto	1:21
Polish	314:15
Portuguese	235:10
Punjabi	3:39
Romanian	19:38
Russian	372:10
Serbian	186:52
Slovene	1:43
Spanish	878:20
Swahili	1:25
Swedish	85:04
Swiss German	5:11
Taiwanese	1:26
Thai	29:23
Tibetan	7:48
Tigrinya	1:38
Turkish	339:48
Urdu	50:07
Vietnamese	6:59

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

SBS ONE & TWO (24 HOURS) – 2009-10

Language	Hrs:Min
Arabic	368:48
Bambara	7:18
Bengali	8:14
Bosnian	9:02
Cantonese	347:19
Catalan	1:44
Croatian	127:51
Czech	24:58
Danish	157:27
Dari	2:03
Dutch	118:45
Farsi	31:19
Filipino	360:18
Finnish	9:19
Flemish	10:22
French	1081:45
Gaelic	1:23
Georgian	1:01
German	701:59
Greek	589:19
Hebrew	41:42
Hindi	164:19
Hungarian	98:07
Icelandic	12:12
Indigenous Australian	4:40
Indonesian	215:44
Italian	626:32
Japanese	459:13
Khmer	1:54
Korean	309:33
Kurdish	1:40
Macedonian	21:39
Maltese	65:30
Mandarin	522:33
Maya	2:20
Mongolian	4:56
Moore	7:16
Norwegian	33:58

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Language	Hrs:Min
Pashto	1:58
Polish	218:35
Portuguese	124:42
Punjabi	1:29
Romanian	19:20
Russian	464:48
Saami	1:09
Serbian	121:45
Spanish	871:12
Swahili	1:13
Swedish	95:30
Swiss German	3:46
Thai	26:38
Tibetan	5:58
Tsotsitaal	3:20
Turkish	277:07
Ukrainian	1:10
Urdu	19:29
Vietnamese	12:40

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 152

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many ongoing staff have been recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
2. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
3. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

1. 70. SBS Band 1 – 6; SBS Band 2 – 4; SBS Band 3 – 24; SBS Band 4 – 11; SBS Band 5 – 16; SBS Band 6 – 4; SBS Band 7 – 5.
2. 103. SBS Band 1 – 4; SBS Band 2 – 15; SBS Band 3 – 36; SBS Band 4 – 13; SBS Band 5 – 9; SBS Band 6 – 15; SBS Band 7 – 6; SBS Band 8 – 2.
3. 151. Two years.

Note: All answers include NITV staff and SBS Subscription TV staff (SBS Subscription TV Ltd operated as a division of SBS from 1 July 2012). SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 153

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many ongoing staff have left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
2. How many non-ongoing staff left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
3. How many contract staff left the department/agency in the year this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?

Answer:

1. 41. SBS Band 1 – 2; SBS Band 2 – 2; SBS Band 3 – 13; SBS Band 4 – 12; SBS Band 5 – 8; SBS Band 7 – 4.
2. 47. SBS Band 1 – 3; SBS Band 2 – 6; SBS Band 3 – 22; SBS Band 4 – 6; SBS Band 5 – 4; SBS Band 6 – 3; SBS Band 7 – 2; SBS Band 8 – 1. This includes 34 employees who left at the end of their specified employment period.
3. 20 employees on common law contracts. This includes 7 employees who left at the end of their contract.

Note: All answers include NITV staff and SBS Subscription TV staff (SBS Subscription TV Ltd operated as a division of SBS from 1 July 2012). SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 154

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staffing

Senator Birmingham asked:

Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer:

SBS does not have any plans for staff reductions; however SBS does continually review its operations to ensure it is as efficient as possible.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 155

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012

http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

1. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
2. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
3. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
4. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
5. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

Not applicable. These savings measures do not apply to SBS. However, SBS actively pursues savings efficiencies and has addressed all these areas, that is, travel savings (including limiting business class travel), use of consultants and contractors, and printing costs.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 156

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Printing costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer:

SBS printed 800 copies of the SBS Annual Report 2011-12. A PDF version of the SBS Annual Report is also published on the SBS website.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 157

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Graduate Recruitment

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much has been spent on 2014 Graduate Recruitment to date? Please itemise and detail costs.
2. Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

SBS does not have a graduate recruitment program.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 158

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Graduate Training

Senator Birmingham asked:

How much was spent on 2013 Graduate Training? Provide details of what training was provided, why and the estimated cost for each.

Answer:

SBS does not have a graduate training program.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 159

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Advertising

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
2. Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
3. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
4. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
5. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
6. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
7. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

Not applicable. SBS is not an FMA agency.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 160

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?
2. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

1. SBS spends only a modest amount on hospitality and entertainment but looks to achieve savings wherever it is possible in order to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.
2. SBS plans on only a modest amount of spending consistent with recent expenditure.
3. SBS plans on only a modest amount of spending consistent with recent expenditure.
4. SBS has spent \$70,686 on a variety of corporate events this financial year to date including: the SBS annual publicity showcase; the annual SBS Parliamentary showcase; A-League football games; NITV launch; and an SBS Board event in Hobart. In addition SBS has spent \$150,000 on a number of commercial sales related events for advertisers and media buyers.
5. Refer to (4).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 161

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Meeting Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

Refer to answer to question 160.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 162

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Program Launch Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What program launch spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

Not applicable

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 163

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
4. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why?
5. Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

1. SBS has regard to guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner as required under s. 93A of the FOI Act. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments on 28 July 2011.
2. Less than \$100.
3. One. Access denied – 1.
4. No. An extension of time was agreed to in accordance with section 15AA of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.
5. No.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 164

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc.). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

1.

Supplier	Purpose of consultancy	Total (excl. GST)
<i>Below \$10,000</i>		
Various	Various	\$149,110
<i>Sub total</i>		<i>\$149,110</i>
<i>\$10,000-\$50,000</i>		
Altus Group	Quantity surveying services for accommodation planning	\$20,956
Australian Valuation Office	Valuation of land, building & equipment	\$33,500
Corcoran Media Pty Ltd	Sales strategy STV	\$32,355
Daryl Jackson Robin Dyke	Architectural services	\$24,000
Deloitte Taxation Services	Taxation services	\$45,675
Sarah Hepburn	Organisational development	\$35,095
Horizon Consulting	Business analysis – Technology & Distribution	\$22,367
Landsburys Property P/L	Artarmon building valuation	\$15,000
Linda R Scott & Associates	Organisational development consultancy	\$10,233
Multi Channels Asia Pty Ltd	TV consultancy services	\$25,000

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Narramore, Christine	Communications and change management	\$30,090
PILAT Media Ltd	Integrated Broadcast Management System – on-site implementation	\$13,752
Raicorelink Pty Ltd	IT consulting	\$12,495
Redrock Consulting	IT consulting	\$12,089
Studio Cream Designs	Brand image concepts organisational development	\$14,058
The Peninsula Psychology Centre P/L	Change management and management consultancy	\$12,000
Venture Consulting	Strategic advice – Technology and Distribution	\$50,000
<i>Sub total</i>		<i>\$408,665</i>
<i>Above \$50,000</i>		
AECOM Australia P/L	Workplace strategy consultant	\$64,325
Arup P/L	Corporate cultural change project	\$71,092
Cox Inall Communication	NITV Integration communication strategy	\$125,713
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Financial reporting, risk assessment, industry trends, industry cost and revenue assessment strategic advice	\$180,212
Demos Hemsley Fraser Australia Pty Ltd	Conduct SBS employee training workshops	\$95,302
Generator Talent	Repositioning consultancy – Technology & Distribution	\$67,163
L.E.K Consulting	Strategic planning workshops	\$103,998
Mindset Group Pty Ltd	Change management – outsourcing of payroll	\$81,625
Opscentre P/L	Business Continuity Plan consultant	\$54,900
PM-Partner Group	Project management implementation	\$98,200
<i>Sub total</i>		<i>\$942,530</i>
Total		\$1,500,305

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

2.

Supplier	Purpose	Total (excl. GST)
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	Workplace strategy consultant	\$16,000
TBA	Accommodation planning financial modelling & strategic advice for development of detailed business case	\$500,000
TBA	Metadata / retention policy consultancy	\$60,000
TBA	Broadcast Operations - technology consultancy	\$150,000
L.E.K Consulting	Strategic advice	\$60,000
Hassell Pty Ltd	Architectural services	\$85,000
Total		\$871,000

SBS is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* agency and is not required to publish an Annual Procurement Plan on the AusTender website.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 165

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Monitoring

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etc., provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?
 - c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. \$101,250
 - a. Media Monitors; Media Link (Community Relations Commission)
 - b. \$147,000
 - c. \$101,250

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 166

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Social Media

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued.
2. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
 - a. If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks).
 - b. Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff usage?
 - c. If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?
3. Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)

Answer:

1. No.
2. No. SBS uses social media channels to communicate and engage with its audiences. SBS encourages employee use of social media as it allows SBS and communities to explore, learn and connect in ways that promote SBS's purpose.
3. SBS uses social media channels to communicate and engage with its audiences. SBS encourages employee use of social media as it allows SBS and communities to explore, learn and connect in ways that promote SBS's purpose in an efficient and effective manner.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 167

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Internet

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office?

Answer:

SBS has not experienced any significant problems of this nature.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 168

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staff Amenities

Senator Birmingham asked:

What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list.

Answer:

Bus service; food and drink vending machines; kitchen facilities; parking; showers; sick rooms; toilets.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 169

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Coffee Machines

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
2. Why were coffee machines purchased?
3. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
4. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?
5. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
6. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?
7. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
8. Why are coffee machines rented?
9. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
10. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?
11. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
12. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer:

Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 170

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Contractors

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For this financial year to date:
 - a. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - b. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - c. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - d. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - e. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - f. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - g. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - h. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
 - i. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.
2. What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

Answer:

1. No.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

2. People defined as working on 'Contract' are staff on executive employment contracts. The majority of SBS managers are employed on executive contracts. To provide further detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 171

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Grants

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Could the department/agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
2. Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.
3. Provide a list of grants that your department/agency administers that had uncommitted grants funding reduced as per the statement by the Finance Minister on 22 October 2012 (see http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_2102012.html). How much was funding reduced for grant?

Answer:

Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 172

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc. in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?
 - a. If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc. as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)
 - b. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
 - c. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. SBS is not subject to Government policy in this respect.
 - a. SBS's policy in respect of contractors/consultants is generally payment in 14 days. For other payments, SBS's normal payment terms are 30 days. Payments are made in accordance with agreed terms of trade (generally 30 days or less) and SBS policy.
 - b. Accounts are paid within the terms of trade. No interest is payable.
 - c. Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 173

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Stationary requirements

Senator Birmingham asked:

What are the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?

Answer:

\$78,967.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 174

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Subscriptions

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1.
 - a. As a news broadcaster, and as the owner of two subscription television channels broadcast on the Foxtel and Austar platforms, SBS subscribes to Foxtel – all channels.
 - b. \$8,996.
- 2.a and 3a. SBS purchases newspapers and magazines in order to keep abreast of local and international industry developments and news and current affairs coverage.
- 2.b and 3b. \$52,679 (newspaper and magazine subscriptions).

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 175

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
2. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
4. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
5. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
6. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
7. Does the department/agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

1. \$2.197 million. This includes fares, travel allowance and accommodation. A further breakdown is not available as SBS does not record this information in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided to this question without involving an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. Travel is arranged according to operational requirements. Many are related to breaking news and current affairs stories and are impossible to predict in advance.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

3. See answer to question 2 above.
4. SBS is not subject to the Government's Lowest Practical Fare Travel Policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines. SBS policy is that domestic travel must be economy class unless duration is greater than four hours. International travel must be economy class unless approval is given for premium economy or business class by the Managing Director or unless it is part of an executive contract.
5. Lounge membership is provided to 31 employees who are frequent travellers. SBS pays for 11 of these memberships at a cost of \$300 per annum.
6. No.
7. No.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 176

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Legal Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

1. \$669,628 (excl. GST). To provide a list of services and costs would be a very onerous task that would involve significant resources.
2. Nil.
3. \$169,041 (excl. GST). Unable to provide a list of services and costs as this information is commercial-in-confidence.
4. Nil.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 177

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Education Expenses

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the department/agency's guidelines on study?
2. For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.

Answer:

1. The SBS Enterprise Agreement provides for Study Leave.

10. Study Leave

- 10.1. Study leave may be granted if the scope, content and level of the course are relevant to the needs of SBS.

10.2 Leave and/or Reimbursement of Costs

- 10.2.1. Employees may apply for either:
 - (a) study leave and assessment leave in accordance with Clauses 10.3 and 10.4;
or
 - (b) assessment leave in accordance with Clause 10.4 and reimbursement of costs associated with the study of up to \$2000.

10.3 Study Leave Provisions

- 10.3.1. Full time Study
 - (a) Unpaid leave can be granted to Employees to undertake a course of full time study provided that SBS's operating requirements permit the leave.
 - (b) Unpaid study leave will count as service for all purposes other than for annual leave.
- 10.3.2. Part time Courses
Paid leave can be granted to Employees to undertake part time study on the following conditions.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

- (a) SBS's operating requirements permit the leave.
- (b) the maximum amount of leave that may be applied for is eight (8) hours' paid leave per week during the course;
- (c) the eight (8) hours per week may be pooled together and Employees may apply to take longer periods of leave;
- (d) paid study leave will count as service for all purposes.

10.3.3. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Employees undertaking part time study may be granted up to thirteen (13) hours' paid study leave each week.

10.4 Assessment Leave Provisions

- 10.4.1. Employees who are granted leave or reimbursement of expenses under clause 10.2 will also be entitled to paid leave to travel to and from, and to attend, compulsory examinations or assessments held during their ordinary hours of duty.

10.5 External or Short Course Study Leave

- 10.5.1. SBS may grant paid study leave and/or reimbursement of costs to Employees to pursue a short course of external study. Courses may include courses on workplace relations if the scope, content and level of the course contribute to understanding of workplace relations.

2. Total SBS training costs were \$225,000 (MyCareer Introduction; Values and Behaviours Training). To provide detail on study leave and costs would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 178

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Executive Coaching

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by Australia Post for senior management or the executive team, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - c. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The names of all service providers engaged
2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (iv), please provide:
 - a. The name and nature of the service purchased
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
 - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - e. The total amount spent on the service
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)
3. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (please provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

1. Nil. Note that SBS executives and leaders participated in the Values and Behaviours Training referred to in question 177 in which all staff participated.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 179

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Media Training

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - c. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The names of all service providers engaged

2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (d), please provide:
 - a. The name and nature of the service purchased
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
 - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - e. The total amount spent on the service
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

3. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer:

Nil.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 180

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Paid Parental Leave

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
2. For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.
3. What is the paid parental scheme offered by each department and agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date.

Answer:

1. All employees with more than 12 months service who earn less than \$150,000 per annum and are the primary care giver of the child are eligible to receive payment under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme. As eligibility is based on primary caring responsibility, the number of eligible staff cannot be identified.
2. SBS. Fifteen. SBS Band 3 – 4; SBS Band 4 – 2; SBS Band 5 – 5; SBS Band 6 – 2; SBS Band 7 – 2.
3. The SBS Enterprise Agreement provides for parental leave. 41.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 181

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Corporate Cars

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many cars are owned by each department/agency?
2. Where is the car/s located?
3. What is the car/s used for?
4. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
5. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

Answer:

Nil. (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 182

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

1. Total: \$464,869. Audio and Language Content – \$26,964; Corporate – \$54,070; Marketing – \$21,405; News and Current Affairs – \$142,055; NITV – \$62,526; Media Sales – \$47,596; Content Sales Distribution \$5,828; Technology and Distribution – \$24,184; Subscription TV – \$21,162; Television and Online Content – \$59,078.
2. Work related travel.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 183

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hire Cars

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer:

1. \$79,218 has been spent on car rentals. A further breakdown is not available as SBS does not record this information in a way that would readily allow an answer to be provided to this question without involving an unreasonable diversion of resources.
2. This expenditure is predominately for TV crew car hire whilst news gathering in areas away from SBS's offices.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 184

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Credit Cards

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.
2. Please update details of the following
 - a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
 - b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
 - c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
 - d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
 - e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

1. A total of 51 credit cards have been issued to staff on the basis of business/operational needs as determined by Division heads. SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and does not use the Australian Public Service employment classifications.
2.
 - a. Under section 28B of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* it is a criminal offence to misuse a Commonwealth authority credit card. SBS will refer the matter to the Australian Federal Police.
 - b. Credit card statements are acquitted and approved by the relevant financial delegate on a monthly basis.
 - c. Please refer to answer under (a).
 - d. No. Not applicable.
 - e. All staff issued with credit cards are required to acknowledge the conditions of use on receipt of the card. Credit card statements are acquitted and approved by the relevant financial delegate on a monthly basis.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 185

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Provision of Equipment

Senator Birmingham asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.

Answer:

SBS provides the following equipment to staff:

- All staff have a PC (or laptop where applicable) at an average lease cost of \$600 per annum.
- Some staff also have a smartphone (either a Blackberry, Nokia Windows or an iPhone) at an average purchase cost of \$900 issued in accordance with operational requirements. The ongoing cost is approximately \$70 per month for line rental and data charges, plus call costs dependent on usage.
- Some staff are issued with standard Nokia mobile phones with a purchase cost of \$200 and with an ongoing cost of \$10 for the SIM plan plus call costs dependent on usage.
- A few management and content staff have been issued with iPads at an average purchase cost of \$800-900. The ongoing cost averages \$49 per month.
- There are 50 internet dongles used by staff. These cost approximately \$200 and the average ongoing cost is a data plan of \$49 per month.

Mobile data devices (smartphones and tablets) are issued to employees to gain mobile access to the company email system, the internet and general IT resources. In providing staff with equipment to fulfil their duties away from SBS offices, the nature and needs of individual roles are taken into account and approved by senior management. SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and does not use the Australian Public Service employment classifications.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 186

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?
2. What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. SBS has an electricity purchasing agreement with TRUenergy. The Agreement was entered into on 1 July 2010 for a period of three years.
2. \$768,392.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 187

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information s been provided to the Australian Greens?
If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
 - f. Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 188

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Shredders

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders this financial year? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

No. Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 189

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Protective Security Policy Framework

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

Answer:

SBS is not subject to Government policy in this respect, but does apply many of the principles set out in the framework to its operations.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 190

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Office Locations

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by:

- a. Department/Agency;
- b. Location;
- c. Leased or Owned;
- d. Size;
- e. Number of Staff at each location and classification;
- f. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre;
- g. If owned, the value of the building;
- h. Depreciation of buildings that are owned;
- i. Type of functions and work undertaken.

Answer:

1.
 - a. SBS.
 - b. Sydney: 14 Herbert Street, Artarmon. Melbourne: Level 2, Alfred Deakin Building Federation Square. Canberra: Press Gallery, Parliament House.
 - c. Sydney – owned. Melbourne – leased; Canberra – licence.
 - d. Sydney: 17,124m² (offices, studios, loading dock, cafe and warehouse). Melbourne: 2998m². Canberra: 119m².
 - e. Total staff (full time and temporary): Sydney: 843 (SBS Bands 1-8 and Common Law Contract). Melbourne: 147 (SBS Bands 1-8 and Common Law Contract). Canberra: 11 (SBS Bands 1-8 and Common Law Contract).
 - f. Melbourne: \$37,995/month; \$317/m². Canberra: \$14,741/quarter; \$425/m².
 - g. Sydney: \$64.5m.
 - h. \$144,051/month.
 - i. Providing multilingual and multicultural television, radio and online services. The Sydney building is a purpose built television and radio broadcasting studio and office complex.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 191

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Communications Staff

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:
 - a. By Department or agency:
 - i. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.
 - ii. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - iii. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - iv. How many are graphic designers?
 - v. How many are media managers?
 - vi. How many organise events?
2. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?

Answer:

1.
 - a.
 - i. Marketing publicity and communications staff: SBS Band 7 – 5; SBS Band 5 – 3; SBS Band 3 – 4. Sydney. Corporate communications staff: SBS Band 4 – 1. Sydney.
 - ii. Marketing publicity staff on contract: 1. Corporate communications staff on contract: 1. Sydney.
 - iii. Media Communications Manager (SBS Band 6) – 1; SBS 2 Marketing Project Manager (SBS Band 5) – 1; Communications Specialist, Audio and Language Content (SBS Band 3) – 1. Sydney.
 - iv. Nil.
 - v. One.
 - vi. Three.
2. As a national broadcaster, SBS has television and radio broadcast studios. All of SBS's functions relate to SBS's function as a national broadcaster.

Note: SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2013
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 192

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Grant Freeze

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much has grant funding been reduced across the department/agency as a result of the grants freeze?
2. Please detail all variations to grants (ie reductions, rephasing etc) that have occurred this financial year.
3. Has the department/agency been required to find any other savings in this financial year?
Please detail all such savings.

Answer:

Not applicable.