

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013

Communications Portfolio

Department Communications

Question No: 26

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Senator Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
5. 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:

1. The number of business flights has reduced from 332 for the 2012/13 financial year to 38 for 2013/14 year to date. For the estimated savings over the forward estimates please see answer to Senate Estimates QoN 353 (1) from the Budget Estimates Hearings May 2013.
2. See answer to Senate Estimates QoN 353 (2) from the Budget Estimates Hearings May 2013.
3. See answer to Senate Estimates QoN 353 (3) from the Budget Estimates Hearings May 2013.
4. See answer to Senate Estimates QoN 353 (4) from the Budget Estimates Hearings May 2013.
5. The Department assumes that this question is referring to savings target in relation to Question 4 above. See answer to Senate Estimates QoN 353 (4) from the Budget Estimates Hearings May 2013.