

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2007-08
21 February 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Staffing Reductions due to the Efficiency Dividend

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 21/2/08, Page E22-23)

QUESTION No: A1-3

Senator ABETZ—I would like to go back to the two per cent dividend, Mr Paterson. You indicated that part of that would be achieved by not pursuing certain staff appointments. Are you able to provide us with the classifications and areas where those staff positions might not be filled? I would assume that you would not necessarily have that with you, so you could take that on notice.

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CHAIR—The committee would appreciate if you could provide as full an answer as you can on notice.

Mr Paterson—I am happy to do that.

ANSWER

In December 2007 the Department determined it would consider all recruitment decisions in light of new Government priorities and potential budget outcomes for 2008-09. In that light, all recruitment actions are signed by the relevant Head of Division, who determines whether there is a critical need to staff the position. The decision on whether to fill positions is also made in response to the need to meet budget targets, await budget outcomes, and to meet the additional two per cent efficiency dividend.