

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 29, 30 & 31 May 2007

Question: bet 59 (ASIC)

Topic: ASX – Staffing Level Targets

Hansard Page: E89

Senator WONG asked:

Did ASIC seek a commitment from the ASX to increase staffing in those areas?

Mr Cooper—Yes.

Senator WONG—Has that been effected?

Mr Cooper—We have only just issued the report and it is to go forward—

Senator WONG—Yes, I have just realised the date. Are there any specific staffing level targets?

Mr Cooper—To give you the specific numbers I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG—I am happy for you to take it on notice, but I am more interested in the level of detail of ASIC's request of or directions to the ASX.

Mr Cooper—I am sure our operations people would have that information.

ANSWER:

Are there any specific staffing level targets?

I am more interested in the level of detail of ASIC's request of or directions to ASX.

ASIC has not set any target staffing levels for ASX to achieve.

ASX has agreed to increase the headcount in supervision effective 1 July 2007, by an amount of 9 full time staff. As with most recruitment actions there will be some lag in the process. ASIC will be seeking regular updates from ASX on its progress.

A market licensee has an obligation under the Corporations Act to ensure it has adequate resources to properly supervise the market, and ensure the market operates in a fair, orderly and transparent way. The exact number of resources applied to supervision functions is a matter for ASX to determine. Our assessment pointed out that there is pressure on existing resources that has the potential to put the adequacy of overall supervision at risk.