

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Estimates 2012-13  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

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**Department:** Parliamentary Budget Office  
**Topic:** Making the Public Service more efficient

**Senator:** Senator Scott Ryan  
**Question reference number:** 58  
**Type of question:** Written

**Question**

- a) 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](http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html)).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

- b) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
- c) Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- d) 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?
- e) 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?
- f) 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**

- a) The Parliamentary Budget Office commenced operation on 23 July 2012 and will manage its operations in 2012-13 and across the forward estimates in accordance with its funding levels.
- b) See (a) above.
- c) See (a) above.
- d) See (a) above.
- e) See (a) above.
- f) See (a) above.