

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**  
**Outcome/Program: 1.1 – Prime Minister and Cabinet**  
**Topic: Staffing - efficiency dividend/budget cuts**

**Senator: Fifield**

**Question reference number: 129**

**Type of question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Question:**

- 1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?**
- 2. If so, where and at what classification?**
- 3. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.**
- 4. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.**

**Answer:**

1. Current staffing numbers have not been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend.
2. Not applicable.
3. The 2011-12 Budget indicates that departmental staff would increase by 200 largely due to Machinery of Government (MoG) changes. Once one-off factors are taken into account (such as the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting, MoG changes, and establishment of the National Mental Health Commission), the department has estimated that average staffing levels will fall slightly over the year from levels as at June 2011 due to a range of factors and it is difficult to isolate the separate impact of the efficiency dividend.
4. No changes are proposed to the current graduate recruitment or cadetship programs.