

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2011**  
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Topic:** Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget

**Senator:** FIFIELD

**Question reference number:** PM129

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of Pages:** 1

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. The Office manages its operations within the resources provided by Government through budget processes. The Office has reduced staffing levels by around 14 per cent over the past 3 years through natural attrition as part of a package of efficiency measures.
2. Reductions in staff numbers have occurred at various levels throughout the organisation as a result of natural attrition.
3. Any further reductions in staff numbers would be considered on a case-by-case basis as a result of natural attrition.
4. No changes are underway or planned in relation to graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.