

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

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**Department/Agency:** Department of the Senate  
**Topic:** Staffing

**Senator:** Senator Ryan  
**Question reference number:** 5  
**Type of Question:** Written

**Question**

**How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?**

**Answer**

As at May 2012, 16 ongoing staff commenced with the department in 2011-12. The classifications of those employees are listed below:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 3	5
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 4	5
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 6	4
Parliamentary Executive Level 1	1
Parliamentary Executive Level 2	1

**How many non ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?**

**Answer**

The department has four temporary positions on the approved establishment. These positions were created in a previous financial year and have been identified to cease from 1 July 2012. The classifications of these positions are set out in the table below:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number of positions</b>
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 3	1
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 4	1
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 5	1
Australian Parliamentary Service Level 6	1

When operational requirements demand, additional non-ongoing employees are recruited. On some occasions, these non-ongoing employees are held against permanent positions (for example, to back fill for employees on long-term leave) and on other occasions they are recruited over and above the approved establishment to meet the sessional demands of the Parliament and/or additional short-term workloads. These employees may be at any of the Australian Parliamentary Service or Parliamentary Executive Level classifications.

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**This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?**

**Answer**

40 non-ongoing employees have commenced with the department in 2011-12. The average length of their employment is 8.5 months.