

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission

**Outcome/Program:** Cross Portfolio

**Topic:** Provision of Equipment

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** 109

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 6 July 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs.
2. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.
4. Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):
  - Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided.

**Answer:**

1. No mobile phones are provided to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices.
2. No electronic equipment is provided to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices.

3. To increase individual staff productivity and provide a high level connectivity with clients and stakeholders, the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) provides, on the basis of a demonstrated business need, a mobile telephony device, such as a mobile telephone or blackberry, to staff across all levels. The APSC has strong rules around the personal use of these devices and regularly reviews their issuance in terms of need and use.

In respect of laptops and wireless cards the APSC maintains a pool of these devices which are available to staff across all levels to enable work to be undertaken away from their regular office. This is in circumstances such as for travelling, attending or presenting at professional development seminars or working in another agency. Only a few devices are on permanent issue to individuals. Thumb/USB drives are provided to staff for use for business purposes.

As at 31 May the APSC had the following numbers of equipment:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total purchase cost (excluding GST)</b>	<b>Ongoing cost (excluding GST)</b>	<b>Classification of staff (issued as demonstrated by a business need )</b>
ipad	3	2,027	nil	SES level staff
laptop	67	76,102	nil	Normally issued from a central pool - as required - APS 6 to SES level staff
wireless cards	16	2,722	\$1,300 per month	Normally issued from a central pool - as required - APS 6 to SES level staff
blackberry	31	13,994	\$2,450 per month	EL2 to SES level staff
mobile phones	56	14,443	\$4,600 per month	APS 5 to SES level staff
Thumb/USB drives	unknown treated as ICT consumables	unavailable	nil	As required - to all levels of staff

4. No electronic equipment is provided to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices.