

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Public Service efficiencies

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 73

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. 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:**

1. Business flights for core departmental functions have reduced. The Department follows the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy which is supported by the Department's official guideline for travel. The travel activities of the Department are reviewed monthly from data provided by the Department's travel provider FCm. The savings over the forward estimates are unable to be quantified.
2. Yes. Reductions in the use of contractors and consultants are being achieved by utilising the broad range of skills within the Department. This reduces the

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reliance on external parties for the provision of services. The savings over the forward estimates are unable to be quantified.

3. The Department solely uses online recruitment advertising. The savings over the forward estimates are unable to be quantified.
4. The Department has reduced its printing costs through greater reliance on online publishing. The Department is on track to achieve the five per cent savings target in 2012-13 through use of the whole of government stationery and office supplies contract. The savings over the forward estimates are unable to be quantified.