

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM105

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of pages: 2

- a) Has your portfolio started implementing the Government's savings election commitment of maintaining the annual efficiency dividend on departmental expenses at 1.25 per cent? If not, why not? If yes, give details.**
- b) Will any agencies in your portfolio be seeking an exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend?**
- c) How do you think you will implement it? Give examples of the types of cuts you will make (i.e. no more pot plants in departmental buildings).**
- d) Will there be cuts to staff? If yes, give details.**

Answer:

- a) The portfolio is aware of the election commitment announced by the Government on 2 August 2010 to maintain the Efficiency Dividend at 1.25 per cent from 2011-12. If this election commitment becomes a decision of Government, the Portfolio will implement this decision during the 2011-12 internal budget allocation process.
- b) The department will have ongoing discussions with agencies on a range of financial matters to be considered in the Budget context.
- c) Resources will be allocated to programs and policies of the highest priority. Internal processes and corporate expenditure are subject to continual review to identify efficiencies.

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- d) There are no anticipated direct staff cuts as a result of the implementation of an efficiency dividend.