

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:

Topic: Provision of equipment

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 134

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 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.

Please update if there have been any changes since Budget Estimates 2011-12 (May 2012):

4. 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.

Remote Access (Vasco) tokens are provided to APSC staff at the Executive Level 2 level or above. They are also provided to APSC Recruitment advisors who work offsite to ensure data security and the levels below Executive Level 2 where there is a approved requirement for remote access functionality.

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 October the APSC had the following numbers of equipment:

Item	Quantity	Indicative Purchase cost (excluding GST)	Ongoing cost (excluding GST)	Classification of staff (issued as demonstrated by a business need)
ipad	2	2,000	nil	Statutory Office Holders and SES staff
laptop	42	54,000	nil	Normally issued from a central pool - as required - APS 6 to SES level staff
Vasco Token	187	Included in Ongoing Cost	\$37,400	Normally EL2 to SES staff. Other staff where special business cost including Recruitment Advisors who work remotely.
Mobile broadband	10	2,722	\$750 per month	Normally issued from a central pool - as required - APS 6 to SES level staff
blackberry	25	21,250	\$4,100 per month (varies according to call usage)	EL2, SES level staff and Statutory Office Holders
mobile phones	16	4,800	\$670 per month (varies according to call usage)	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.