

Department/Agency: Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1

Topic: Public service efficiency

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 79

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages:2

Question: Please detail how the department/agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

How will reductions in air travel spending be achieved? What is the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

What restrictions will be implemented for business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

How will the use of external consultants and contractors be reduced? How will this impact on the department/agency? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

How will the department/agency manage moving recruitment advertising online? Will all future recruitment advertisement be online only? If not, explain why. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

How will printing costs be reduced? Explain if and how the department/agency will reduce its printing costs by five per cent, or if it will not, why not? How will it be determined what documents will no longer be printed? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

The agency will achieve savings by:

- reducing travel, both domestic and overseas
- reducing legal expenses following the engagement of a staff member with the necessary legal qualifications
- prioritising discretionary spending such as training, stationery and equipment.

As an agency of only 13 staff, spending on air travel is already minimal. There will be reduction in travel achieved by having fewer staff conduct each interstate inspection (one officer instead of two) and by conducting electronic file inspections. No overseas travel is planned for 2012/13. The estimated savings for 2012/13 is approximately \$4,000 for domestic travel.

There will be no particular restrictions implemented for business flights. Overall savings for air travel will be achieved as described above.

Previously the main use of consultants has been for legal advice. A new position with a requirement for legal qualifications was created and filled in January 2012, which has reduced the necessity for external legal consultants. Use of contractors by the agency rarely occurs and as the use of both contractors and consultants is demand driven it is not possible to estimate what, if any, savings will be achieved. For example, the cost of legal expenses in 2009/10 was approximately \$30,000, in 2010/11 it was approximately \$127,000 and in 2011/12 it was \$18,000.

All recruitment advertisement for OIGIS is already online therefore there is no opportunity for further savings in this area.

As the major cost for printing in OIGIS is the Annual Report, the agency is unlikely to be able to reduce its printing costs by five per cent as there are already minimal copies of the Annual Report printed.