

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 14

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator HUMPHRIES: ... Can I ask about some budget matters, particularly going to staffing establishment of the Customs and Border Protection Service. We have a question that was answered on notice, question No 78, which indicated how the staffing establishment of the service has declined for a number of years, going from 5,746 FTEs in 2007-08 to 5,225 FTEs for last financial year. Do we know what that figure is likely to fall to in 2012-13?

Mr Pezzullo: Yes. During the current financial year, that is 2012-13, we have budgeted for a planned workforce adjustment, a reduction of approximately 190 FTE. We are currently working through the precise details of how that will be broken down. Divisions have been given relevant guidance. They are working to that guidance. Obviously, we are looking wherever possible to achieve that through the natural attrition process.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Just over 5,000 people would be left in the organisation?

Mr Pezzullo: I might ask Ms Bridger to add to this answer. The current position is that we would see our FTE, in average staffing level terms, come down to 5,035 at the end of this financial year. How that precisely translates to FTE I might have to take on notice. The budget papers are expressed in both FTE and ASL terms. The figure I have given you is the ASL.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

As proposed in the Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statements, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service is expected to have an average staffing level (ASL) of 5,035 for the 2012-13 financial year.

ASL is the average over a financial year of the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff paid by the organisation at each pay for the period. The ASL is normally used for reporting the average number of staff employed over a period, that is a financial year or a month.