

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: Corporate

Question No. 63

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

Regulatory reform

1. In reference to the Government's regulatory reform policy announced prior to the election, what methodology will the Department use to calculate the cost of regulation within the portfolio?
 - a. The Government's policy suggests there will be a standard approach based on a model used in Victoria. The policy requires the Department to establish a dedicated unit led by an officer of at least SES1 level. Has the unit been established, how many staff have been assigned to this new unit and from where have the staff be redeployed?
 - b. Is this a full time job for these officers?
 - c. According to the policy the Department will be set a specific regulatory performance target. Has the regulatory performance target (to cut or reduce the impact of regulation) been set within the Department yet?
 - d. If so, what is the target?
 - e. If not, when do you expect to finalise this target?
2. The policy also requires this Department to establish a Ministerial Advisory Council – this council will meet quarterly and provide the Minister with advice on opportunities to cut red and green tape. What is the process for establishing this new Council?
3. How will the members be selected and who will be the final decision maker?
4. When do you expect the Council to be up and running?

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

1. The Department is using the costing methodology published on PM&C's website.
 - a. The Attorney-General's Department has established a dedicated Deregulation Unit led by a Senior Executive Service Band 1 level officer. Four officers are assigned to the Unit.
 - b. Yes.
 - c. – e. The Government has a \$1 billion annual regulation cost reduction target. The Attorney-General's portfolio will contribute to this.
2. The Attorney-General is considering options for portfolio stakeholder consultation mechanisms on deregulation.
3. See the response to question 2.
4. Consultation will occur in 2014.