

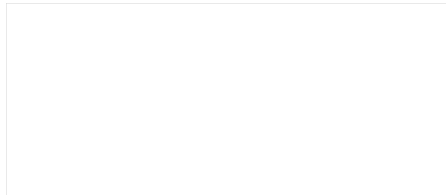
Question No : 307

Question : Reorganisation of Educational Resources Section

Question Date : 12/10/92

Member : Mr BAILEY

To : MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING



1. What is the rationale behind the proposed reorganisation of the Educational Resources Section.
2. What are the problems associated with the present organisation.
3. What is the anticipated cost of the reorganisation and how will it be funded.
4. Is it anticipated that the reorganisation will result in any staff redeployments; if so, how many and to where.
5. Is it anticipated that the reorganisation will result in any staff redundancies; if so, how many.
6. Were staff employed in the area consulted about the reorganisation; if so, what was the nature of the consultations.
7. How will the services previously provided by this section be provided now.

ANSWER

1. The Department of Education is concentrating on those activities it is best able to professionally support while using external bodies for the delivery of specialist non-educational services. The Government Printing Office was established to provide a printing and publishing service for all departments and authorities.
2. The arrangements prior to 1 October 1993 have served the department well in the past. However, the following factors led to a review of printing and publishing services -
 - (a) The need to manage resources more effectively.

As a discrete specialist service within the departmental structure, the capacity to make savings and reduce staff numbers was limited.

- (b) The rate of technological change which requires increasing review and upgrading of equipment. Given its economies of scale, the Government Printing Office has been able to offer very competitive prices while keeping its technology up to date.
 - (c) The difficulty in finding replacement staff for short term relief purposes. In a larger organisation like the Government Printing Office, relief staff are more readily available and there are better staff development and career opportunities.
3. The reorganisation has been completed at no cost.
 4. One officer has been redeployed to the Royal Darwin Hospital.
 5. No staff have been made redundant. One officer opted to take early retirement.
 6. No. The decision was a straightforward one as the Government Printer charges approximately 30% less per copy than it cost to produce copies in the facility which was maintained separately by the department.
 7. Photographic services will be contracted out to the private sector.

The Editorial Standards function will remain in the Department of Education.

Audio/video services will continue to be provided as part of the Distance Education and Open Learning Centre.

It is intended that the Government Printer will retain the Chrisp Street premises as an outposted Government Printing Office facility. The Department of Education will obtain printing and publishing services through this facility with the benefit of the considerable resources and expertise of the Government Printing Office.