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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 350**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 February 2018**

**Ms Z Jongbloed (DA) to ask the Minister of Economic Development:**

(a) What is the total amount that was (i) budgeted for and (ii) spent on his private office (aa) in each of the past three financial years and (bb) since 1 April 2017 and (b) what was the (i) remuneration, (ii) salary level, (iii) job title, (iv) qualification and (v) job description of each employee appointed in his private office in each of the specified periods? NW372E

**REPLY**

1. The audited amount budgeted for and spent by Economic Development Ministry (Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister) is provided in the below table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Inclusive Budgeted R 000 | Inclusive Expenditure R 000 |
| 2014/15 | R 20 421  | R19 828 |
| 2015/16 | R 20 163 | R 20 160 |
| 2016/17 | R 20 061 | R 18 355 |

**\****the 2017/18 data is yet to be audited*

(b) In accordance with the Ministerial handbook for Members of the Executive and Presiding Officers, *“Executive Authorities may utilise the guideline for Private Offices of members that staff be (a) appointed either on a contract linked to the political term of office of the Executive Authority, (b) as full-time public servant utilising the job evaluation system, or (c) second personnel from components within the department.*

*The core staff is determined by the Executing Authority, who may decide on the creation and grading of posts as identified in their structure, based on proven needs and provided that sufficient funds are available in terms of the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) of the department.”*

Combined, the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister have a total of 17 staff members, composed of full-time, contract, seconded departmental officials and advisors to the Minister.

I am advised that in line with the Protection of Personal Information Act (PoPi) and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, I am unable to provide the members with such confidential information in the manner it is requested.

I however draw the Honourable Member to the Department’s 2016/17 Annual Report (from page 66) wherein the department provides detailed Human Resources Information.

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