

Subject: Email sent on behalf of Ms Walding
Date: Wed, 22 Mar 2006 09:13:57 +1100
From: <Paul.ZINKEL@Dest.gov.au>
To: <scicomm@bigpond.net.au>
Cc: <Julie.WALDING@Dest.gov.au>,
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Mr Pockley

CHIEF SCIENTIST APPOINTMENT

I would like to provide answers to your questions about the Chief Scientist, originally forwarded to Murray Hansen on 28 February 2006. Virginia Cook in this department provided an earlier response which was necessarily incomplete at that time, but included the advertisement and explanatory material for the recruitment process.

YOUR QUESTIONS:

1. What is the date of effect of Dr Peacock's appointment?

[Answer: 1 March 2006](#)

2. For what term has he been appointed? (Dr Robin Batterham had two three-year terms from 1999)

[Answer: Engagement is from 1 March 2006 until 28 February 2008.](#)

3. For how many days per week -- or other measure -- is he required to work as Chief Scientist, additional to his role in CSIRO? (Dr Batterham was engaged for two days per week.)

[Answer: Average 3 days per week as Chief Scientist.](#)

4. Is this a part-time staff appointment or a contract engagement?

[Answer: The Chief Scientist is engaged on a consultancy basis.](#)

5. What is his annual salary? (Dr Batterham's payment of \$94,120 in August 2004 was on the public record.)

[Answer: Remuneration determined by the Remuneration Tribunal is \\$154,140 per annum.](#)

6. What is the approximate total cost of the Office of the Chief Scientist and how many staff are there this year? (In 2004 the cost was approximately \$1 million and there were nine members of DEST staff in the Office.)

[There is provision for 10 DEST staff in the office. The total budget is around \\$1.2 million in 2005-06 which includes costs associated with support for the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council \(PMSEIC\), the Coordination Committee on Science and Technology \(CCST\) and the Chief Scientist as well as staff and administration costs.](#)

7. Who is currently heading the Office of the Chief Scientist?

[Answer: The position of Head of the Office of the Chief Scientist was a fixed term contract position, not a public service position, and has since been abolished.](#)

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Julie Walding
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Office of the Chief Scientist
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