

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES (SUPPLEMENTARY HEARINGS) 2013-2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Ministerial Office Security Classifications

Senator: Senator Ludwig

Question reference number: 177

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- (1) What is the policy for ministerial staff security clearances?
- (2) How many staffers employed by the government under the MOPS Act have security clearances?
 - a. At what level?
 - b. If not, why not?
- (3) How many seconded departmental officers acting in ministerial offices, including DLOs have security clearances?
 - a. At what level?
 - b. If not, why not?

Answer:

- (1) The Office does not have any staffers employed by the Government under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, nor have any seconded departmental officers in any ministerial offices. Accordingly, the Office does not currently have a policy for ministerial staff security clearances.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.