

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 138

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Corporate

Programme: Corporate Strategies Division

Topic: Ministerial Office Security Classifications

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

What is the policy for ministerial staff security clearances?

How many staffers employed by the government under the MOPS Act have security clearances?

- a. At what level?
- b. If not, why not?

How many seconded departmental officers acting in ministerial offices, including DLOs have security clearances?

- a. At what level?
- b. If not, why not

Answer:

- The Department of the Environment is not able to advise on the Department of Finance security policy in relation to the staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act* (MOPS).
- The Department of the Environment does not have this information, it is held by the Department of Finance which employ and facilitate security clearances for staffers employed under the MOPS Act.
- On 18 November there were three Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) and three seconded staff in the Minister's Office. The three DLOs consisted of one with a NV2 clearance, the second with NV1 and the third with a Confidential clearance in process of upgrading to NV2.
- The three seconded staff consisted of one with a Secret clearance, the second with Highly Protected clearance and the third with a Protected level clearance.