

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Management and Assurance of Integrity by Consulting Services

Department: Department of the Treasury
Topic: Referring consultants to AGSVA
Reference: Spoken
Senator: **Deborah O'Neill**

Question:

Senator O'NEILL: Have you ever required them to provide clearances? You interact with AGSVA. You've actually had to use their services.

Dr Barrett: Yes.

Senator O'NEILL: How many people would that have been in the last five years?

Dr Barrett: I would have to take that on notice. I'm not sure how many.

Senator O'NEILL: But, to the best of your recollection, you've never had to refer a consultant to AGSVA because they failed to meet the requirements that you set?

Dr Barrett: I'm not aware of us referring a consultant to AGSVA, but I will take that on notice to confirm.

Senator O'NEILL: There's the onboarding process, and then there's the offboarding process. We've had a lot of evidence about failures to manage that, so what are your offboarding processes with regard to confidentiality and AGSVA? Could you provide that on notice?

Dr Barrett: In relation to AGSVA security clearances, when a contract ends, our security team looks at which contractors we have been sponsoring security clearances for, and we remove our sponsorship, as a department, of those security clearances.

Answer:

We are not aware of any referrals to AGSVA regarding the suitability of a consultant to maintain a security clearance.ⁱ

ⁱ Note that any APS employee can make an independent referral to AGSVA about the suitability of any clearance holder (with or without engaging with the centralised Treasury security team). We do not have visibility, or knowledge, of any such referrals.