

Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit

Parliamentary inquiry – Inquiry into ANAO Audit Report 38: Mitigating Insider Threats through Personal Security – 20 August 2018

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: JCPAA – Inquiry into ANAO Report 38: Mitigating Insider Threats – 20 August 2018 – Q1 – The Committee

Question reference number: 1

Senator/Member: The Committee

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 August 2018

Question:

1. Provide a list of all entities that conduct security clearance work for AGSVA.
2. Provide a list of the courier services/companies that conduct delivery of security clearance related material between AGSVA and those entities.

Answer:

1. In accordance with AGSVA's deed arrangement with the Industry Vetting Panel, 22 companies currently provide clearance services.
 - Anderson, Jennifer
 - Australian Forensic Services Pty Ltd
 - Baker, Kathy
 - Barrington Corporate Risk Pty Ltd
 - Charles, Michael Paul
 - Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd
 - Crown Vetting Pty Ltd
 - Gatekeeper Vetting Pty Ltd
 - Key Vetting Services Pty Ltd
 - Mitchell Personnel Solutions
 - Murumal Pty Ltd
 - National Vetting Services Pty Ltd
 - Nexus Vetting Pty Ltd
 - Oz Vetting Services
 - PerSec Solutions Pty Ltd

- RISQ Group
- Ruswin Vetting Services Pty Ltd
- Sirras Consultants
- Staff Check Pty Ltd
- Vetec Security Pty Ltd
- Vetting Solutions Australia
- Visco Security Vetting Pty Ltd

All companies on the panel are listed on AusTender under SON3287712:
<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.SON.view&SONUUID=A14F9139-9437-D877-6DE32CC5F795D99E>

2. TOLL Group is the only company used by AGSVA and the IVP companies to transfer files. Toll Group is a member of the Defence Industry Security Program (DISP).

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Parliamentary inquiry – Auditor General's reports 38 and 43 (2017-18) –
17 August 2018

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: JCPAA - Auditor General's reports 38 and 43 (2017-18) Public Hearing
17 August 2018 - Q1 Clearance Waivers for non-nationals - BRODTMANN

Question reference number: 1

Member: Ms Gai Brodtmann

Type of question: Spoken

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 September 2018

Question:

Ms BRODTMANN: How many non-Australian nationals have had that waiver exercised?

Mr Fortune: I would have to take that on notice.

Ms BRODTMANN: Take that on notice and also the nationalities of those who have been waived, the length of their security clearance, the level of their security clearance and the level by nationality....

Ms BRODTMANN: Going back to those non-nationals. I'm talking about—

Mr Fortune: Those operating under a waiver?

Ms BRODTMANN: Yes, the waiver. When you give that breakdown can you also give it by agency as well? So the nations, the level of clearance and which agency they're working with.

Answer:

The Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) states: "Australian citizenship is a condition of eligibility for security clearances, unless under exceptional circumstances the agency head has waived this requirement." The PSPF requires that "agency heads are to only grant a waiver in exceptional circumstances where: the exception is critical to the agency meeting its outcomes, and the risks to any affected agency can be mitigated or managed."

Agencies manage eligibility waivers for their clearance holders and are required to report on waivers in their annual PSPF compliance reports.

AGSVA has provided (below) details of citizenship waivers approved in financial year 2017-18.

In financial year 2017-18, 68 citizenship waivers were approved by agency heads. 63 active waivers remain in place for current security clearance holders. Five approved waivers are no longer active as four clearance subjects have had their sponsorship ceased and one clearance subject met eligibility requirements (became a citizen).

The table below outlines the allocation by sponsor agency, clearance level and nationality of the 63 active citizenship eligibility waivers.

Agency	Clearance Level	Nationality		
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission	2 NV2	1 The Netherlands		
		1 United States of America		
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	8 Baseline	3 Canada		
		1 French		
		1 New Zealand		
		1 South African		
		1 The Netherlands		
		1 Zimbabwe		
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	6 Baseline	1 Canada		
		1 The Philippines		
		1 New Zealand		
		1 Poland		
		2 United Kingdom		
	1 NV2	1 Malaysia		
Department of Defence	10 Baseline	1 Canada		
		1 Germany		
		1 India		
		1 New Zealand		
		4 United Kingdom		
		2 United States of America		
			13 NV1	3 Canada
				2 Israel
				1 New Zealand
				4 United Kingdom
3 United States of America				
	4 NV2	4 United States of America		
	2 PV	2 United States of America		
Department of Finance	1 Baseline	1 United Kingdom		
Department of Health	1 NV1	1 United Kingdom		
Department of Home Affairs	5 Baseline	5 India		
National Film and Sound Archive	1 Baseline	1 The Netherlands		
Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Service	1 NV2	1 New Zealand		
Prime Minister and Cabinet	2 Baseline	1 Italy		
		1 United States of America		

South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet	3 Baseline	1 China
		1 Sweden
		1 United Kingdom
	1 NV1	1 United Kingdom
Special Broadcasting Service	1 Baseline	1 South African
Treasury	1 NV2	1 New Zealand

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Parliamentary inquiry – Auditor-General's reports 38 and 43 (2017-18) –
17 August 2018

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: JCPAA - Auditor General's reports 38 and 43 (2017-18) Public Hearing 17 August 2018 - Q3 Misaddressed documentation - BRODTMANN

Question reference number: 3

Member: Ms Gai Brodtmann

Type of question: Spoken

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 September 2018

Question:

Ms BRODTMANN: Okay, what happens with a misaddress? Give me an example of that. Is it misaddressed to the positive vetting entity?

Mr Fortune: One of the industry vetters—I'd have to take it on notice to give you the exact example, but I'm recognising that the system, as it is, where incidents occur, we report them and we fix them. There's been no breach of security.

Answer:

AGSVA uses the national Defence contract for courier services, including classified 'safe hand', currently Toll Group. AGSVA has a strict security protocol for movement of personal security files by Toll, which includes double-sealed packaging inside tamper-evident containers.

AGSVA has identified only one example of a consignment of Personnel Security Files misaddressed to an Industry Vetting Panel (IVP) company in the past five years. This was not a positive vetting case. In this instance, the Defence approved courier, Toll, was unable to deliver the consignment to an industry vetting company as it had been misaddressed to one of the company's regional offices. It is a requirement of AGSVA that consignments are signed for. As there was no one present to sign for the consignment, Toll returned the consignment to AGSVA the following day.

The consignment was then readdressed to the IVP company's correct regional office and successfully delivered the following day.