

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

Question No: 2
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Remuneration for staff seconded to Ministerial Offices
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Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: The other question in relation to that is who is paying for them. Are they on the department's books or have they been engaged under the MOP(S) Act and are therefore on the minister's books?

Ms Wiley-Smith: Certainly. I will take that on notice. We do some temporary placements within the office, which is within the normal procedures. I think three months is the maximum amount of time that the department can pay for an officer who goes up to assist in the office, but I will clarify that.

Answer:

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, a division of the Chief Operating Officer Group in the Department of Finance, has information on the entitlements of Senators and Members on the Department's website http://www.maps.finance.gov.au/entitlements_handbooks/senators-and-members/Senators_and_Members_Entitlements.asp

When an employee in the Minister's or Parliamentary Secretary's Office is absent on approved leave for a period of 12 weeks or more, a person may be temporarily employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* to fill the vacancy. When an employee is on leave for a shorter period, the Minister's portfolio department is responsible for providing any relief required.