

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Appointment of departmental staff in the MOs

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 67)

QUESTION No.: BI-37

Senator KETTER: Have departmental officers been appointed to either of the two ministers' offices or the assistant minister's office?

Ms Beauchamp: We have a range of departmental officers supporting the minister's office through our departmental liaison officer network.

Senator KETTER: Are there any payment and appointments to ministers' offices from departmental offices?

Mr Schwager: We have one person from the department on a temporary secondment to Assistant Minister Laundy's office at the moment. We have the departmental liaison officers in each of our three ministers' offices as the secretary has mentioned. There will be members of staff from the department who are on transfer through the MOP(S) Act as well not only to ministers but also potentially to members of parliament.

Senator KETTER: Can you provide us with the details of those appointments, how they are made, whether they are temporary or permanent, and the issue of whether they are on the department's books or engaged under the MOP(S) Act?

Mr Schwager: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

As outlined in section 5.3.3 of the *Ministers of State Entitlements Handbook* the department is responsible for providing relief staff for Portfolio Ministers for a period up to 12 weeks. Under this arrangement there is currently one departmental staff member on a temporary secondment to the Assistant Minister's office.

Three staff (one in each office) have been engaged under the MOP(S) Act and taken leave without pay from the department for a period of 12 months.

As is standard practice the Department also appoints Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) for each office in line with the Prime Minister's decisions regarding DLO allocations. There are currently two DLOs in each Minister's office and one in the Assistant Minister's office.