

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Communications Division

Question No: 188

Topic: Internal Treasury Budget Leak Investigation

Reference: Hansard page 34-35 (29 May 2017)

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: In terms of the investigations you have done within Treasury around any potential for the leak to come from within Treasury, that is not related to the lockup. You have sought assurances or a process around that yourself and you are satisfied as far as you can work out that Treasury were not behind the leak.

Mr J Fraser: To the best of my knowledge—I cannot give a cast-iron guarantee, but, as I said, I would be devastated if it came from one of my Treasury colleagues or, indeed, one of the people in the agencies who were aware of the levy.

Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have a figure? Usually, when you do investigations into leaks you would have how many people were in scope who are potential.

Mr J Fraser: I will ask Mr Robinson.

Mr P Robinson: As the secretary said, on the Wednesday, we collated a list of people who had had involvement or access to information. As is typical in the budget process, the number of people who had access through the development phase, particularly on this measure, was relatively small, but our scope included right through to the point of publication of the documents and so on.

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you give me an idea of how many that was?

Mr P Robinson: I would have to come back to you with a definitive number.

Senator GALLAGHER: Okay. Was it more than 100?

Mr P Robinson: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: That includes going off to the printing shop and all the rest of it.

Mr P Robinson: Correct...

Answer:

Treasury confirms the response provided in the Senate Estimates hearing.