

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Assistant Secretary, Security Branch**

Question: **257**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

The Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services, Mr Rob Stefanic, advised the Committee on 18 February 2016 that Ms Erin Noordeloos, Assistant Secretary, Security Branch in the Department of Parliamentary Services had tendered her resignation and that it had been accepted.

1. Has an Acting Assistant Secretary, Security Branch, been appointed and if so, who is the Acting Assistant Secretary?
2. Under what circumstances was the resignation tendered?
3. Was the resignation submitted in writing?
4. Can the selection process for a replacement be outlined?
5. Has any consideration been given to a review of security governance arrangements in light of this resignation?

Answer

1. Yes – Mr Paul Cooper, a Band 1 officer, has been seconded to the role from the Attorney-General's Department as of 4 April 2016.
2. The resignation was tendered for personal reasons.
3. Yes
4. As with any vacancy in DPS, there are a number of options to fill a vacancy including running a merit process by advertising in APS Jobs, running an internal EOI process for the temporary filling of a role or 'seconding' a person with appropriate skills from another Commonwealth agency. To expedite appointment of a suitable Band 1 officer in this role, DPS has seconded an officer with relevant experience.
5. The appointee to the role will be asked to conduct an operational review that will include decision making and governance arrangements.