

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Opposition staff – Mr Eamonn Fitzpatrick

Senator: Bernardi

Question reference number: F150

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. I refer you to the case of Mr Eamonn Fitzpatrick – a former media adviser to both Prime Minister Rudd and Prime Minister Gillard – who has since returned to work for Mr Shorten. Can you confirm that Mr Fitzpatrick is a member of Mr Shorten's staff?
2. Is Mr Fitzpatrick based in Mr Shorten's office or is he based in Mr Burke's office? If it's Mr Burke's office: how can Mr Fitzpatrick be based in Mr Burke's office in Sydney when he is paid by Mr Shorten?
3. Is this an isolated example? Are there any other examples of a staff member working for one Member but being paid by another?

Answer:

1. The staff member concerned is employed by the Hon. Tony Burke MP.
2. See answer to (1) above.
3. Employment arrangements for staff are required to be consistent with the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*.