

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Mr Shearer - clearance

**Senator:** Senator the Hon John Faulkner

**Question reference number:** 123

**Type of Question:** FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, page 127

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator FAULKNER: I do not know the background to Senator Dastyari's questions, but you would expect the advisers—not just Mr Shearer, but others involved in security advice and so forth—to have a TS positive vet, wouldn't you? That would be my expectation. It is generally the case, isn't it Dr McCarthy?

Dr McCarthy: It is often the case.

Senator FAULKNER: So you will tell the committee—they are Senator Dastyari's questions, not mine, but I have seen a few of these things over the years—just what level clearance he has.

Dr McCarthy: We will check.

**Answer:**

The Department has not previously commented on the level of an individual's security clearance and does not propose to do so in this case. Access to all information within the Prime Minister's Office is granted in accordance with Protective Security Policy Framework.