

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Security Clearances

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 234

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question: Why did the department refer to 37 staff in the PMO in relation to questions about security clearances (proof Hansard, pg.127) when according to staffing allocations tabled by the Department of Finance on 29 May 2014 the Prime Minister has an allocation of 58 personal staff positions – 53 in the Prime Minister's Office and 5 in the Cabinet Office?

How many of the Prime Minister's 58 personal staff have at least an NV2 clearance?

Answer:

The Department of Finance (Finance) manages MOPS clearances. At the time the question was asked during the Estimates hearing, the department had information in relation to 37 staff. Subsequent inquiries of Finance indicates that additional staff have an NV2 clearance. Further inquiries should be directed to Finance.