

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 – security clearance

Senator: Senator Sam Dastyari

Question reference number: 80

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Question:

Senator DASTYARI: ... Senator Abetz, you mentioned earlier the security clearance of the chief of staff to the Prime Minister, which was obviously the highest level, which is appropriate for a chief of staff of to a prime minister to have. You were able to get that information quite quickly. Do you know what level security clearance the gentleman we were talking about earlier—the Prime Minister's national security adviser—has?

Senator Abetz: The "gentleman"—you will have to assist. Mr Shearer?

Senator DASTYARI: Yes, Mr Shearer.

Senator Abetz: I will have to try to find that out for you. I do not have that at hand. I will take it on notice, but, if we can get it quickly, we will let you know.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet 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.