

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Conflict of Interest**

Question: **10**

Hansard Reference: **p 41, 22 May 2017**

#### **Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017**

**Senator BERNARDI:** How long was it between being demoted to an EL1 position and being reinstated to the current EL2 position?

Mr Stefanic: I might ask Mr Cooper if he has some detail on the actual time frames. What I will say though is the substantive is a very clear delineation. They are not appointed into that role; it is simply an acting period.

**Mr Cooper:** I do not have the exact time frame. It was a matter of weeks or perhaps a couple of months before the person was asked to temporarily take on additional duties at the higher level.

**Senator BERNARDI:** 'A matter of weeks' so it could be less than a month?

**Mr Cooper:** We would have to check.

**Senator BERNARDI:** Would it be three weeks or so?

**Mr Cooper:** That could be right.

#### **Answer**

The staff member was demoted from his substantive PEL2 position within the Security Branch and was transferred to the Building Services Branch at a PEL1 level on 29 March 2017.

A critical role in the Building Services branch became temporarily vacant due to the incumbent going on personal leave. On 1 May 2017 the demoted staff member was asked to act in the position given his extensive experience as an employee at the Executive Level and his intricate knowledge of the building. The main purpose of disciplinary sanction is to ensure effective administration and to maintain proper standards of conduct in the Parliamentary Service. The staff member was considered the most appropriate person to temporarily act in the role.