

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Statutory Officer: Parliamentary Service Commissioner

Outcome/Program Group: 1.1

Topic: Change in arrangements for appointment of a Commissioner's representative on SES selection panels for parliamentary departments

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: 137

Type of question: Spoken

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Ms Foster: It used to be a requirement for SES roles both within the Australian Public Service and within the Parliamentary Service for the agency head to seek endorsement from the Commissioner of the Commissioner's representative for a selection panel.

On each selection panel there is someone who operates as the Commissioner's representative. Some 18 months ago we made some changes for Public Service positions which meant that agency heads did not need to formally seek the Commissioner's approval; they just needed a representative that met our broad guidelines. I can go through those. It just took us a little bit longer to catch up with the Parliamentary Service departments to make the same changes so that we are not putting people through a process of seeking endorsement of a particular name.

Senator McALLISTER: Have those changes now been made in relation to the parliamentary departments?

Ms Foster: I would have to take that on notice. I am not entirely sure, but I think so.

Answer:

The requirement to seek the Commissioner's endorsement of the representative's certificate was removed from the *Parliamentary Service Determination 2013*. The change took effect from 28 October 2016.