

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Governance Group

Topic: Ministerial office security clearances

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 177

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1)What is the policy for ministerial staff security clearances?
- 2)How many staffers employed by the government under the MOPS Act have security clearances?
 - a. At what level?
 - b. If not, why not?
- 3)How many seconded departmental officers acting in ministerial offices, including DLOs have security clearances?
 - a. At what level?
 - b. If not, why not

Answer:

1. The employment status and clearance requirements for all MOPS personnel are managed by the Department of Finance.
2. See response to Question 1.
3. All Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) personnel seconded to Ministerial offices, as well as DLO's, are required to hold a Negative Vetting 2 Clearance.
PM&C currently sponsors one Negative Vetting 2 Waiver for an NV1 staff-member whilst their upgraded clearance is being processed.