

**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:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Consultants

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 53

**Type of Question:** Hansard

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- 1) In a normal setting before a consultant or external person is engaged by the department to do some work, would the department do any investigation or background check?
- 2) Would they alert the Minister if an individual was under investigation for example?
- 3) Would they alert the Minister that a potential appointee was being investigated for criminal activities by the judicial system?

**Answer:**

1. It is the Department's policy that all staff and contractors requiring access to PMC's tenancies, systems or information are required to have a minimum Baseline security clearance.
2. Where information came to light in a clearance process which suggested that an individual was not suitable to hold a clearance, action to cease the person's access would occur. Advice to a Minister would occur on case-by-case basis.
3. Please refer to answer in 2 above.