

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Ministerial Code of Conduct

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F28

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in May 2014 could the SMOS please answer the following questions on behalf of all Ministers:

1. Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by any Minister, their office or the department?
 - a) If so, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level
 - b) If so, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach? If no remedy has been put in place, why not?
 - c) If so, when was the breach identified? By whom? When was the Minister made aware?
2. Can the SMOS confirm that all Ministerial and electorate officers in their office comply fully with the Ministerial staff code of conduct?
 - a) If not, how many staff don't comply, broken down by classification level?
 - b) How long have they worked for the Minister?
3. Can you confirm they all complied with the code on the date of their employment?
 - a) If not, on what date did they comply?
4. Can you confirm that all disclosures as required by the code were made to the government staffing committee?
 - a) If so, on what date were those disclosure made?
5. By position title list the date each staff member was approved by government staff committee.
6. Can you confirm all staff have divested themselves of any and all relevant shares as of the date of their appointment.
7. Can you list by number if any staff have been granted exception by the SMOS to remain a director of a company as allowed by the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct, break down by position level.

Answer:

Staff are required to comply with the Statement of Standards for Ministerial Staff. Consistent with longstanding practice under successive governments, the personal details of staff are not provided.