

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Question reference number: F123

Senator: Ludwig

Topic: Ministerial leave

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Was the minister on leave at any point during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014)? If so:

- a) Please table a schedule of the ministers leave. Please include:
 - i. The dates the minister was on leave.
 - ii. The dates the minister was out of the country (if applicable).
- b) Who was acting in the minister's place?
 - i. What date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place?
 - ii. What was the process for selecting this person?
 - iii. Who was involved in making this decision?
- c) Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the minister during this time? If so:
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and the department during this time.
 - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the minister?
 - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the minister but were unable?
- d) Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting minister during this time? If so:
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the acting minister and the department during this time.
 - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting minister?
 - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting minister but were unable?
- e) Did the department contact the Minister or acting minister during this time? If so:
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.

Answer:

Department / Agency	Response
Finance	<p><u>Minister for Finance</u></p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>a) i) 11–25/01/2014. ii) 11–22/01/2014.</p> <p>b) The Hon Joe Hockey MP, Treasurer. i) Consistent with the practises of the former Government, before the Minister took leave. ii) iii) This is a matter for Government.</p> <p>c) No i) ii) N/A. iii) iv) No.</p> <p>d) No. i) ii) N/A. iii) iv) No.</p> <p>e) No. i) ii) N/A.</p> <p><u>Special Minister of State</u></p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>a) i) 30/12/2013–12/01/2014. ii) N/A.</p> <p>b) Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance (30/12/2013–10/01/2014) The Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Social Services (11–12/01/2014). i) Consistent with the practises of the former Government, before the Minister took leave. ii) iii) This is a matter for Government.</p> <p>c) No. i) ii) N/A. iii) iv) No.</p> <p>d) No. i) ii) N/A. iii) iv) No.</p> <p>e) No. i) ii) N/A.</p> <p><u>Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance</u></p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>a) i) 13–22/01/2014. ii) N/A.</p> <p>b) i)-iii) No acting arrangements were put into place.</p> <p>c) No. i) ii) N/A. iii) iv) No.</p> <p>d) No. i) ii) N/A. iii) iv) No.</p> <p>e) No. i) ii) N/A.</p>

AEC	Please refer to the Department of Finance's response to F123.
ComSuper	Please refer to the Department of Finance's response to F123.
Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	Please refer to the Department of Finance's response to F123.
Future Fund Management Agency	Please refer to the Department of Finance's response to F123.