

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: 457 visas

Senator: Senator the Hon Abetz

Question reference number: 5

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Question:

Senator ABETZ: Yes. What advertisements and employment and recruiting agencies or other attempts did Ms Gillard use or undertake to seek a person in Australia to fill the position?

Senator Conroy: I would have to take that on notice for you.

Senator ABETZ: I would have thought that, given the high and mighty attitude of the government, you might have been well and truly capable of answering those sorts of questions to ensure that there would be no hint of hypocrisy around this government on this issue.

Senator Conroy: I will have to take that on notice for you, Senator Abetz.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had no role in recruitment for the position held by Mr McTernan in the Press Office of the former Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP. The Department has no knowledge of what steps the former Prime Minister's office took to find a person with the necessary skill set to fill the position.