

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: PMO Vetting waivers

Senator: Senator Ryan

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Question:

Senator RYAN: So you would be advised that staff have or have not been cleared, or their level of security clearance, in order for them to access your system?

Ms Leon: AGSVA does not have to advise us, but we make inquiries of the Prime Minister's office about being kept up to date with security clearances as necessary. We make sure people have lodged their security pack before we give them access to the system.

Senator RYAN: So you have to get advice from someone that a person is entitled to access?

Ms Leon: That is right.

Senator RYAN: That advice comes from the office of the Prime Minister, does it?

Ms Leon: That is right.

Senator RYAN: Who in the Prime Minister's office does it come from?

Ms Leon: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department liaises with individuals in the Prime Minister's office regarding the status of their clearance. This information is cross-checked with the Department of Finance and Deregulation which is responsible for the management of clearances for all *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* personnel.