

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: Number of Staff on AGSVA waivers

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 42

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Question:

Senator RYAN: How often are you required to grant extra waivers or extend waivers—whatever the correct terminology—pending the conclusion of a process? Does it often take more than three months?

Ms Leon: It can often take more than three months. I would not know exactly how often we do that. We process more than 1,000 recruitment or staffing movements, I think, per year or so, where many people would be getting clearances, so I would probably have to take notice how often a security clearance needs a waiver and how often the waiver needs to be extended.

Answer:

Since May 2012, PM&C has processed approximately 760 recruitment or staffing movements. Five extensions to security clearance waivers were processed during this time. All waivers and extensions are granted in accordance with Commonwealth policy.