

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 200**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Ministerial staff code**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by the 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 Minister 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:**

The Department of Finance will answer this question on behalf of the Communications portfolio.