

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18**

Finance Portfolio  
24-25 May 2017

**Department/Agency:** Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Remuneration - Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

**Senator:** McAllister

**Question reference number:** F85

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 90-92

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator McALLISTER:** Before we go on, Senator Farrell, can I ask a follow-up question? Minister Ryan, you have indicated that you will take the request for the dollar figure of Mr Moriarty's salary on notice so that you can review the privacy concerns associated with the release of that information. Can I ask you, though: is Mr Moriarty being paid within the ordinary pay scale that is ordinarily applied to staff within the Prime Minister's office or is he being paid, as was the previous chief of staff, on a special arrangement?

**Senator Ryan:** I genuinely do not know. I will take that on notice.

...

**Senator McALLISTER:** I am asking a separate question, which is about the level of knowledge of the department. Is the department aware of whether or not the band system is being applied in the case of the Prime Minister's chief of staff? I am not asking them to give us the answer, whether it is or is not; I am asking: does the department know? Is this knowledge held by the department?

**Ms Huxtable:** It is not information that I have.

**Senator McALLISTER:** How can that possibly be the case?

**Ms Huxtable:** It is the case. It is not information that I have.

**Senator McALLISTER:** So the department which oversees ministerial and parliamentary services and ministerial staff, on an evening set aside to discuss ministerial staff, is unable to tell us whether or not they hold this information?

**Ms Huxtable:** The minister has taken the question on notice, and we will see what we have and what is able to be provided.

**Answer:**

The Department of Finance (Finance) performs the payment function for *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) employees.

In accordance with established practice across successive governments and obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988*, Finance does not provide details of the remuneration and other employment arrangements for individual employees.