

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/180) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Have there been any changes to the secondments of departmental officers to the Minister's office or the office of the Assistant Minister?

- a. If so, what are the details of those appointments and how were they made.
- b. Are they temporary or permanent?
- c. Who is paying for them – are they on the department's payroll or have they been engaged under the MOPS Act and are therefore on the minister's books.

Answer:

Under the Ministerial Entitlement guidelines issued by the Department of Finance, a department/agency is required to support the Minister's Offices by providing staff for short terms up to 12 weeks where there are staff on leave or vacancies exist. From 18 September 2013, four department staff were provided across both offices, pending permanent recruitment by the Minister's Office. The recruitment action has now occurred in all positions. Four department staff have subsequently accepted longer term roles in both the Minister and Assistant Ministers offices. These personnel are engaged under the MOPS Act. Staff employed under the MOPS Act are not paid for, nor do they report to the department.