

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: 457 visas

Senator: Senator the Hon Abetz

Question reference number: 4

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Question:

Senator ABETZ: In relation to 457 visas, the government's review and its concerns about 457 visas, have we ever been told in detail what steps the Prime Minister took to find a person with the necessary skill set to fill the position now held by Mr McTernan.

Senator Conroy: I am happy to take that on notice for you.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had no role in recruitment for the position held by Mr McTernan in the Press Office of the former Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP. The Department has no knowledge of what steps the former Prime Minister's office took to find a person with the necessary skill set to fill the position.