

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0276) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Have any departmental officers been seconded to the Minister's office or the office of the Parliamentary Secretary? • If so, what are the details of those appointments and how were they made? • Are the secondments temporary or permanent? • Who is paying for them – are they on the department's books or have they been engaged under the MOPS Act?

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 departmental and agency staff were provided across both offices, pending permanent recruitment. The recruitment action has now occurred in all positions. Two departmental staff have subsequently accepted longer term roles in both the Minister and Assistant Ministers offices. These personnel are engaged under the MOPS Act. While working in the Minister's Offices, the staff report to and are paid for by the department/agency. Staff employed under the MOPS Act are not paid for, nor do they report to the department.