



Current positions/persons of trust and consultants

28

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27

27

25

24

20

6

Ministry for Gozo

Ministry for Energy and Water Management

Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion

Ministry for Tourism

Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects

Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business

Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security

Ministry for Finance



Justyne Caruana

Joe Mizzi

Carmelo Abela

Konrad Mizzi

Ian Borg

Chris Cardona

Michael Farrugia

Edward Scicluna

ment Customer Care, Mark Farrugia – Deputy Chief of Staff, Raymond Barbara – listed as Personal Assistant – Matthew Carbone – Communications Officer. These are normal positions filled by people trusted by the head of a ministry or in this case, the Prime Minister, given that such positions require the absolute trust of the minister responsible.

A number of secretariat officers, persons working within the secretariat pool, messengers, a couple personal drivers, and similar sorts of jobs are also listed.

The information also includes an Estate Manager on a scale 9 salary (maximum of €23,200) as a position of trust, whose job it is to maintain Villa Francia and Girgenti Palace, and to coordinate all necessary work to ensure that the residences are “kept at the highest level of maintenance”.

In addition, there are two estate keepers on salary scale 9 as persons of trust for Villa Francia and Girgenti Palace, tasked with the upkeep and organisation of household belongings, cleaning on a daily and weekly basis, the setting up for and serving social activities, working as kitchen help etc.”

Of the 105 total listed by the OPM, 45 are persons employed in ‘positions of trust’, while the rest would be persons of trust, consultants and the like.

The information provided also lists, among other positions, two receptionists, and a number of customer care assistants (whose job description reads: meeting customers to assist them in their queries, among other duties.)

Joe Debono Grech: a special delegate with an unknown salary

One person on the OPM’s list sticks out: Joe Debono Grech is listed as a “Special Dele-

gate,” and is listed as being employed in the “Office of the Special Delegate.” The information leaves his salary scale blank, but states that he has full use of office car and a mobile allowance of €815 per annum.

The section for a brief description of his day-to-day duties is also left completely blank. His date of appointment was 3 June 2017.

The ministries

Among the higher paid positions of trust in the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government is the Chief of Staff (Salary Scale 3 – around €38,000) and the private secretary (salary scale 5 (maximum of €30,600).

The two Heads of Secretariat for the Parliamentary Secretaries falling under this ministry are paid on a salary scale 4 (€34,500), with additional perks.

One must keep in mind that court attorneys and judiciary drivers also fall under this ministry, accounting for 37 of the positions listed.

Around 40 of the people listed work for the Ministry’s secretariat (which include persons in positions of trust), and the secretariats of the Parliamentary Secretaries in addition to other related roles falling under this ministry (including personal drivers, customer care officers, secretariat messengers etc.).

In the Justice Ministry, of the 107 positions listed, 32 are positions of trust, while the rest would be consultants, persons of trust, and so on.

In addition to these, there are also six policy consultants listed, including Ronnie Pellegrini – who used to be Chief of Staff for Minister Helena Dalli. Seven persons are listed under the Malta Arts Council, which falls under the ministry. This number in-

cludes Laura Falzon (€27,800 salary, in addition to a €2,000 expense allowance, a €13,000 expertise allowance, and an €800 mobile allowance), whose brief job description reads “cultural liaison New York, Running of Arts Council Malta Office in New York, Guide to assist artists, promote Maltese cultural activities.” She was appointed on 5 June 2017.

This newsroom is able to provide the total number of persons of trust, positions of trust, consultants and the like for every ministry, and is also able to provide, as a separate statistic, the number of ‘positions of trust’ in each ministry (in parentheses).

Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government – 107 (including 32 positions of trust), Office of the Prime Minister – 105 (including 45 positions of trust). The Ministry for Family, Children’s Rights and Social Solidarity submitted a list with a total of 77 people (including 12 positions of trust), the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality with 66 (including 15 positions of trust), Ministry for Education and Employment – 49 (including 11 positions of trust), Ministry for Health – 48 (including 17 in positions of trust), Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change – 47 (including six positions of trust), Ministry for Gozo – 28 (including 5 positions of trust), Ministry for Energy and Water Management – 27 (including 13 positions of trust), Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion – 27 (including five positions of trust), Ministry for Tourism – 27 (including 10 positions of trust), Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects – 25 (including 17 positions of Trust), Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business with 24 (including two positions of trust), Ministry

for Home Affairs and National Security – 20 (including five positions of trust), Ministry for Finance – 6 (including two positions of trust)

Comparisons with 2015

Back in 2015, this newsroom had conducted a similar exercise, and filed FOI requests with all ministries, asking for the names, financial packages and duties of all those employed, since March 2013, in positions of trust within their Ministries and all departments and entities falling under their remit. For those no longer in such positions, ministries were asked to provide the same details and also the date of termination.

While the request is not identical to the one filed recently (given that the new request included consultants for example), a slight comparison is justifiable, while one must keep in mind that the types of employees asking to be included in this recent request are more than what was asked for in 2015. Keeping that in mind, the 2015 request showed that 542 people were employed with the government in the so-called ‘positions of trust’, which is less than the 682 number for persons of trust, positions of trust, consultants etc.

In the OPM’s case, back in 2015 there were 112 people in positions of trust. Fifty people in positions of trust had been hired without a call for applications under the OPM’s International Conferences 2015 Unit, who were at the time tasked with organising the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and the Valletta Summit on Migration. That unit’s staff complement was said to have been kept on the government payroll until the end of 2015. OPM numbers in this year’s request stood at 105.