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By [Joanna Paraszczuk](#)

February 19, 2012 12:59

Investigation of PMO chief of staff ends, Eshel signs plea bargain admitting to charges of "unbecoming conduct."

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Nathan Eshel 311. (photo credit: Marc Israel Sellem)

PMO Chief of Staff Natan Eshel is to be dismissed from his post at the end of the month after signing a plea bargain admitting 'misconduct' regarding a young female staffer, the Justice Ministry announced on Sunday.

The announcement came after the Civil Service Commission concluded its investigation into allegations that Eshel harassed a female staffer, known only as R., and invaded her privacy. During the investigation, which began last month, the Civil Service Commission questioned 28 witnesses and Eshel himself was also questioned under caution.

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A Justice Ministry spokesman said that the investigation found evidence of misconduct on the part of Eshel and that the attorney-general and Civil Service Commission had agreed to approve the terms of a plea bargain agreed with Eshel's attorney, Dr. Jacob Weinroth.

Under the terms of the plea bargain, Eshel will resign from his post on March 1, and will agree not to return to the civil service.

Eshel admitted offenses of breaching civil service discipline and of conduct unbecoming to a civil service employee.

The PMO Chief of Staff agreed to accept a punishment consisting of a severe reprimand for his conduct.

"The plea bargain reflects Mr. Eshel's acceptance of his responsibility, and has resulted in an appropriate outcome - the termination of Mr. Eshel's employment in the civil service," a Justice Ministry spokesman said.

The Justice Ministry also said the plea bargain 'respected R.'s wishes not to be involved in legal proceedings," noting that R. still refused to cooperate with the investigation, although investigators and others had tried to persuade her to testify.

In a letter to Weinstein last month, R.'s attorney, Dr Harel Arnon, had asked that his client not be compelled to testify and said that R. wanted to remain anonymous.

"Our client's right, the right of every body, is to decide autonomously if she feels harmed by someone's behavior and if she wants to share those feelings