

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
28 February 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: 3/3.1
Topic: Security services of prime ministers

Senator: Farrell
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Question:

Senator FARRELL: These questions have been asked in PM&C. My understanding is that Finance provides the payment for the security services of prime ministers. Is that correct?

Mr Fredericks: One of the problems is that it is certainly not in this program.

Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice.

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Senator FARRELL: My question really goes to former Prime Minister Abbott—perhaps future Prime Minister, I'm not sure—who indicated that had he chosen to stay at his private residence in Sydney rather than Kirribilli House because there would have been a cost to the taxpayer of a million dollars. What I am trying to illicit is: was any advice provided to the former Prime Minister by Finance to back up that figure of a million dollars?

Senator Ryan: So, you are now asking, if I might say, Senator Farrell—I want to be precise about this—about advice provided to the former Prime Minister on if or when he raised that issue about living in one place or the other?

Senator FARRELL: Yes.

Senator Ryan: What I am saying here is that the officials are not aware of this being Finance and it is definitely not outcome 3 related. I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Finance is not responsible for security services relating to current or former Prime Ministers and provided no advice to Mr Abbott in respect to the cost of security.