

**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:** Parkinson Inquiry

**Senator:** Farrell

**Question reference number:** F55

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 102, 28 February 2017

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Thursday, 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator FARRELL:** Are you able to provide us with copies of the information you have provided to the Prime Minister's department?

**Mr Fredericks:** I think we will need to take that question on notice.

**Senator FARRELL:** Are you taking on notice the question as to whether you will provide the information?

**Senator Ryan:** Senator Farrell, can I interpose myself here—and I am again happy to be corrected. I do recall at the time that Mr Parkinson's report was advice to a committee of cabinet. If the advice was provided for that purpose, it would not be appropriate to release it.

**Senator FARRELL:** I am aware of the rules; I am simply asking the question.

**Senator Ryan:** I am just saying that that is the proviso and the prism of privilege that—

**Senator FARRELL:** This is the second or third time you have reminded us of the rules. We are familiar with the rules.

**Senator Ryan:** I think, to be fair to Mr Fredericks, if—

**Senator FARRELL:** I have been very fair to Mr Fredericks.

**Senator Ryan:** I am just trying to be fair that there was no observation that this may involve that rule. I was only highlighting that, if my memory serves correctly, that rule would be engaged here but not with some of the other questions you have asked.

**Senator FARRELL:** I understand the rules, Minister, and obviously I would not want Mr Fredericks to break any of the rules in providing the information. I am simply asking the question so that I can elicit an answer. If the answer is that you cannot provide it, so be it, but that was not the answer that Mr Fredericks gave. He said he was going to take the question on notice. What I was inquiring was what question he was taking on notice, and I think he answered the question. I take it that the—

**Mr Fredericks:** I think the minister has answered the question for me. The question I am taking on notice is whether I am in a position to provide this committee with any documentation.

**Senator FARRELL:** Yes. Well, the minister went a bit further than that, rather implying that—

**Mr Fredericks:** But he was describing the grounds on which I might advise this committee that I am unable to provide any documentation.

**Senator FARRELL:** Yes, but, of course, you will examine the issue on its merits, I assume, and if the information does not fit into the category that is expected under from provision then you will provide the information.

**Answer:**

Advice was sought by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the purpose of consideration by the Governance Committee of Cabinet and as such the information provided is Cabinet-in-Confidence.