

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: Appointment of **Mr Philip Ruddock to the position of Special Envoy for Human Rights/1948 pension scheme**

Senator: Farrell

Question reference number: F58

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 111, 28 February 2017

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FARRELL: Yes. Did the department provide any advice to Mr Ruddock in advance of his accepting this position or after he had accepted it?

Ms Powell: The department has been in contact with Mr Ruddock a number of times. I do not know the exact details but I know that he has called on a number of occasions.

Senator FARRELL: He has called the department?

Ms Powell: As do many parliamentarians to discuss payment of their pensions. In particular because he was leaving parliament, he would have to talk to officers of the department to set up the payment arrangements, so there was nothing unusual about that.

Senator FARRELL: Yes, but did he receive any advice in respect of this particular arrangement that I am referring to now?

Ms Powell: I am sorry; I do not know.

Senator FARRELL: You do not know. Are you able to find out for us?

Ms Powell: Yes, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Finance provides general advice to prospective and current pensioners of the *Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1948* about their entitlements. This includes advice on the effect that holding an office of profit may have on their pension.