

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2014**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Mandated use of catering contractor**

Question: **292**

Written: **Senator Wong**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014**

1. With reference to evidence by the Secretary, Ms Mills, to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on 26 May 2014 (proof Hansard, pp.36-37) that the President, the Speaker and the Prime Minister are not required to use the DPS catering contractor IHG: On what basis are these office holders exempt from the requirement to use IHG?

**Answer**

1. There is no formal requirement for any Members or Senators to use IHG for catering, however due to the numerous venues, logistically and practically it would not be possible for separate caterers to supply all areas. A number of the suites such as the Presiding Officers' have their own kitchens, and this makes using external caterers logistically easier.

Under the terms of the current contract, DPS grants the Contractor a non-exclusive licence to use the Catering Service Areas for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Contract.