



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

5 June 2014

Senator Cory Bernardi
Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration (Legislation
Committee)
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Bernardi

I am writing to clarify the record of a matter discussed at your Committee's Budget Estimates hearing on 26 May 2014.

The matter, raised by Senator Wong, concerned the use of the Queen's dining set.

I stated that I had never requested and used that particular dining set at functions I have hosted in the President's Suite.

For the record, whilst it is correct that I have never requested the use of the Queen's dining set for functions, the set was in fact used on 14 May 2014 at a dinner I hosted in my Suite for the former Presidents of the Senate. The use of the Queen's dining set for this rare occasion came at the suggestion of the Functions Coordinator, was agreed to by my Office and approved by the Usher of the Black Rod. As I was not involved in making the arrangements for this dinner, I was not aware of the detail, hence my response at the hearing to Senator Wong's questions.

Yours sincerely

JOHN HOGG