



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**ANDREW FISHER BUILDING  
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON**

Reference: EC19-000312

Ms Ann Palmer  
Committee Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Palmer

I wish to advise the following clarification to the record in relation to evidence provided at the Additional Estimates hearing on Monday 18 February 2019, regarding the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio.

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**Senator McALLISTER:** Has the Prime Minister sought any advice on the meaning of the requirement 'to consult' in the context of that act and his decision?

**Mr Duggan:** The Prime Minister hasn't sought that advice from the department.

**Senator McALLISTER:** Has the department provided any advice?

**Mr Duggan:** Not on the meaning of the act, no.

I had understood the question to relate to a legal interpretation of the Act. No such advice had been sought or provided. On reviewing the transcript, it would appear Senator McAllister may have been asking more generally whether advice on the requirement to consult had been sought or provided. Such advice was in fact provided on 17 January 2019 by reference to precedent.

Yours sincerely

Simon Duggan  
Deputy Secretary  
Industry and Jobs

27 March 2019