

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Prime Minister's Mail out to Pensioners – fact checking

Question reference number: HS 16

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 46, 24 October 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CAMERON: Let me rephrase it then: can you advise me as to whether you fact checked and raised the issue of CPI with the PMO?

Ms Campbell: Can I clarify what you mean by CPI?

Senator CAMERON: The CPI is changing, which will mean that pensioners will be worse off. The CPI is moving from one CPI measurement to the other, and it will mean less payment.

Ms Golightly: I think the CPI change you are talking about is the one proposed for 2017.

Ms Campbell: No, he is talking about the definition of CPI.

Ms Golightly: Okay, sorry.

Senator Payne: We will take this question on notice.

Senator CAMERON: I want to try—

Senator Payne: I think it does constitute advice to government, but we will take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services (the department) verified the pension rate increases that were included in the letter mailed to Age Pension recipients in October 2014.

The department did not have contact with the Prime Minister's Office regarding the letter.