

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency:** Australian Prudential Regulation Authority

**Question:** AET 74

**Topic:** APRA's engagement with individual senators

**Reference:** Hansard page no. 124 - 10 February 2016

**Senator:** Ketter, Chris

**Question:**

**Senator KETTER:** My first question goes to the issues that we had last year in relation to what some would consider to be the politicisation of APRA, particularly around APRA's activities with the Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Governance) Bill 2015. We are aware that the minister's office had asked APRA to speak to crossbench senators on the legislation. Is it the case that APRA has provided briefings to individual and/or groups of senators?

**Mrs Rowell:** We provided briefings to individual senators, and also to a group of advisers of senators.

**Senator KETTER:** Who decided that APRA would start talking to individual senators? Did this come from the Chairman, or did the government direct or suggest that APRA do this?

**Mrs Rowell:** The minister's office asked if APRA would make itself available to answer questions from senators on the legislation that was before parliament. We discussed it internally, and in particular the Chairman and I discussed whether we would be prepared to do that and agreed that we would, and made ourselves available.

**Senator KETTER:** Could you please outline on how many occasions, on what dates, for how long, and to which individual senators you provided briefings?

**Mrs Rowell:** I believe we have provided that information in response to a question on notice previously. I cannot recall all of those details off the top of my head, but there was a question on notice after the last hearing, I believe, which provided a lot of that detail.

**Senator McALLISTER:** I do not believe it was in this committee—

**Mrs Rowell:** It may have been at the hearing in Melbourne.

**Senator McALLISTER:** in the estimates process; it may have been in the hearing into the legislation perhaps. I was present at the last estimates hearing and it was not canvassed, so I think we would be interested in having information that Senator Ketter has outlined.

**Mr Byres:** We will just take that on notice, because there are a number of points there—including, I think you asked for the lengths of the meetings?

**Senator KETTER:** Yes, the length of each meeting.

**Mr Byres:** I am not sure we will have that, but we would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) responded to a similar query from the Senate Economics Legislation Committee at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing in October 2015 (refer to SBT 772).

APRA was involved in three meetings, each of less than one hour, held on 15 October 2015 with Senator Muir, Senator Wang, and (as a group) the advisors to Senators Lazarus, Lambie and Day. These meetings provided an opportunity for APRA to address any questions the Senators or their advisors had on matters relevant to APRA in relation to the Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Governance) Bill 2015.