

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Question: PM29

Topic: Official Establishments - House Manager

Asked By: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Type of Question: 104-105 (21/02/2011)

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 2

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Decided to resign; okay. What was the basis of that resignation and when did that person resign?

Mr Terrell - I think I might take that on notice, but I do not think we have a reason for that resignation.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - There must have been a reason if they resigned.

Mr Terrell - I am sure that there was but I do not think we have it.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Could you take on notice and perhaps if we could have a copy of the letter of resignation? If you want to take out the name, please by all means do so. So, when did this person resign?

Mr Lewis - I am not sure, with regard to the letter of resignation and so forth, whether it is proper to be sharing that. That would be a personal matter between the individual and their employer. We will check and see whether it can be released. I do not know; I just could not guarantee it.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Perhaps, can I just ask this one? How long had the previous occupant been in the position?

Mr Terrell - I do not think we have that information with us; we will have to take that on notice as well.

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Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Perhaps you could take on notice how long they had been in the job, because it seems strange that the position was advertised after the last federal election and yet one almost begs the question, if the occupant resigned there is a natural inference here. I am curious to know why that person has resigned so closely after the federal election. When did Ms Gillard move into The Lodge, by the way?

Mr Terrell - I believe it was 26 September 2010.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - When did this person resign?

Mr Terrell - I have not got that information with me. We would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - In addition to the person that resigned, were there other resignations?

Mr Terrell - Not that I am aware of.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Could you take that on notice?

Answer:

The previous House Manager commenced at The Lodge in January 2009 and resigned from the position with effect 10 December 2010. As is normal practice, the department is unable to release the details associated with an individual staffing matter due to the need to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

Please also refer to PM69 regarding another resignation.