

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Ms Karen Kline - complaint

Senator: B. Brown

Question reference number: PM42

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 1

Question:

1. Have you investigated a complaint made by Ms Karen Kline on 16 November 2010?
2. Has the investigation found that Ms Kline's allegation that documents lodged with her 2007 nomination have gone missing is correct?
3. What response has been given to Ms Kline's request that her complaint be thoroughly investigated and who has given this response?
4. Is it possible that any member of the secretariat wrote or spoke to the 2007 nomination from Ms Kline as part of the Council's decision making process?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. Ms Kline was advised in writing by Stephen Brady, Official Secretary to the Governor-General and Secretary of the Council for the Order of Australia that her complaint of 16 November 2010 pre-empted notification of the Council's decision on the case. A further written response – post notification of the Council's decision - addressing her concerns was provided by Stephen Brady.
4. As is the case with all nominations, no member of the Secretariat was involved in the Council's decision making process, nor did any member of staff speak to or provide written information on the nomination, apart from a summary of achievements (standard practice), included with information provided to the Council from the nominator and referees (both those supplied and those sought independently by the Secretariat).