

Question: 47

Topic: Ministerial leave

Written: 7 March 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Was the minister on leave at any point during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014)? If so:

- a) Please table a schedule of the ministers leave. Please include:
 - i) The dates the minister was on leave.
 - ii) The dates the minister was out of the country (if applicable).
- b) Who was acting in the minister's place?
 - i) What date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place?
 - ii) What was the process for selecting this person?
 - iii) Who was involved in making this decision?
- c) Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the minister during this time? If so:
 - i) Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
 - ii) Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc. between the minister and the department during this time.
 - iii) Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the minister?
 - iv) Were there any times that the department tried to contact the minister but were unable?
- d) Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting minister during this time? If so:
 - i) Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
 - ii) Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the acting minister and the department during this time.
 - iii) Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting minister?
 - iv) Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting minister but were unable?
- e) Did the department contact the Minister or acting minister during this time? If so:

- i) Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
- ii) Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.

Answer:

This is not applicable to the department.