

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Cabinet Handbook

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 4

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 51

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Can you tell me why the Cabinet Handbook has not been updated?

Mr Fox: No, I do not have any particular answer. We have provided a draft—

Senator WONG: It is your responsibility.

Mr Fox: We have made some revisions to the draft, but it has not been finalised.

Senator WONG: When did you make those?

Mr Fox: I cannot give you a precise date. I will have to take that on notice.....

Senator WONG: Can you tell me: was any draft provided by the department prior to that draft being provided post-September 2013?

Ms Kelly: I will have to take that on notice and check for you.....

Senator WONG: Mr Fox, can I just ask you to take something on notice? Can you give me the date on which the draft was provided to the Prime Minister's office?

Mr Fox: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: I appreciate that. I assume it has only been provided once, or has it been provided and redrafted and provided again?

Mr Fox: We have only provided it once, although there may well have been a couple of drafting changes in the meantime as well.

Senator WONG: On notice, I would like to understand the dates on which a draft was provided and any subsequent redraft was received and then re-provided.

Mr Fox: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

A brief was provided to the Prime Minister by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in December 2014. In the course of ongoing discussions a revised brief was provided to the Prime Minister in March 2015.