

**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:** Knighthood of Prince Philip

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 12

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 63

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: I will not press it. When was Mr Thawley appointed?

Ms Cross: He commenced on 1 December, I think.

Senator WONG: Was he asked his advice prior to the decision being made on these issues?

Ms Cross: I cannot answer that. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: You do not know?

Ms Cross: No.

Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, did Mr Abbott seek the advice of his chief of staff?

Senator Abetz: That I do not know, but once again he has accepted full responsibility for the appointment.

Senator WONG: I will ask you to take that on notice. I will also ask whether any backbenchers were consulted and, if so, who and when.

Senator Abetz: All right. I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

1. The Secretary was not asked for advice on this matter.
2. The Prime Minister has indicated that the recommendation for appointment was his.
3. The Prime Minister does not comment on the content of private discussions that may or may not have taken place with other members or senators.