

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: Question Time Briefs

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 120

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 83-84

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: Did the Prime Minister seek advice from the department about the content of the question? In providing the answer to the House, prior to the Prime Minister making that statement, did the Prime Minister seek advice from PM&C about whether or not he could, or should—or can make that statement?

Ms Cross: Again, I do not think we normally reveal the nature of advice that is sought from the department by the Prime Minister, but I am happy to take that on notice and check.

Senator LUDWIG: I am not asking for content, just whether or not the—

Ms Cross: I understand.

Senator LUDWIG: request was made.

Ms Cross: I think the longstanding protocol is—

Senator Abetz: Yes, you are, because you are asking whether he could say whether he should not say et cetera. Clearly you are going to the content of the advice. We will take it on notice and that which we can provide we will.

Senator LUDWIG: In an expansive way I suspect you are correct, but in the more narrow sense, whether advice was requested, I could perhaps stop at that point. But you have indicated that you will take that notice. I would encourage you to provide what can given in the general way these things are answered.

Senator Abetz: Thank you for your encouragement

Answer:

As the Chief Commissioner of the AFP outlined to Senate Estimates on 24 February 2015, the Prime Minister had received a briefing on 12 February 2015 and the AFP subsequently cleared the content of the statement.

Refer to PM27.