

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: Prime Minister's statement

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 122

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 85

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: I was going to go across there tomorrow and ask them the same thing. But what I wanted to do was not to at least close the loop where they would then say, "We advised. We can't tell you who we advised." Or they might say, "We advised. You should go and talk to PM&C because they would be the ones that could answer that question." If you do not think it happens, can I assure you it does happen. I wanted to make sure that I can then respond to Mr Colvin tomorrow and say, 'PM&C has said X.'

Senator Abetz: You tell Mr Colvin that PM&C said, 'Go to AFP.'

Senator LUDWIG: Yes. So you cannot say whether or not, or you do not know whether or not, you sought subsequent permission from the AFP in relation to the statement made by the Prime Minister?

Ms Cross: I do not know, and I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator LUDWIG: So no-one in this room knows whether or not permission was—

Ms Cross: I do not know, but I think we would take that on notice anyway.

Senator LUDWIG: All right. You could not find out today, before tomorrow? It would be helpful. We are here until 11 o'clock, as I understand it.

Ms Cross: We will see what we can do.

Senator LUDWIG: The DPP, which also ask tomorrow, issued a statement. Do you know whether or not PM&C asked the DPP to issue a statement on the matter?

Ms Cross: Whether the PM&C did? I will take that on notice and see if I can get that answer for you, as well.

Senator LUDWIG: Or whether the request came from the Prime Minister's office through PM&C to ask the DPP to issue a statement in relation to the matter?

Ms Cross: We will see what we can find out for you.

Answer:

Refer to PM27.