

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: Machinery of Government costs

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: I could say they have skinned it down enough for you, but I will not. So when these decisions are made PM&C do not provide advice to government about the cost impact?

Ms Kelly: PM&C's role is to enact the machinery of government changes, so our role is to put the administrative procedures in place in order to bring about the change. It is then a matter to be negotiated bilaterally between each department.

Senator LUDWIG: So if people were to make significant changes, you would not provide advice on the cost implications of that?

Ms Kelly: Whilst I think it is common sense to be aware that any change involves costs—

Senator LUDWIG: That is why I asked the question.

Ms Kelly: I would have to take on notice whether any specific advice was provided in relation to cost, but the quantum of costs would not be known in advance.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not provide specific advice on the implementation costs of machinery of government changes involving other portfolios.