

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: PQoN 1501

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 127

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 90 & 105

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator Abetz: Minister Bishop wrote to the Prime Minister's office on 20 May 2014, so one assumes it was relatively soon thereafter. But we can take that on notice for you.

Senator LUDWIG: We could deal with this another way. You do have 1501. Do you want to have an opportunity of relooking at 1501 and seeing what information you can provide?

Ms Kelly: I do not have that in front of me.

Senator LUDWIG: No, not now.

Senator Abetz: Not now, but on notice.

Senator LUDWIG: It was put on notice.

Senator Abetz: It is a parliamentary question.

Senator LUDWIG: It is some months overdue. I thought I will raise it now and we will come back to it later in the evening. That will give you an opportunity between now and, say, after dinner to look at the question and decide how much you can provide to me rather than me in seriatim going through it and you then saying—

Senator Abetz: I am sure somebody is listening in and that best endeavours will be entered into.

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Senator LUDWIG: So, the remaining question you are taking on notice and will provide an answer? There were 14 in all.

Senator Abetz: Yes, and some of the information is still not at hand.

Answer:

The information sought in parts (1) to (8) of Parliamentary Question on Notice 1501 was provided during the Senate Estimates hearing, FPA Monday 23 February 2015, at pages 104 and 105.

The Prime Minister's approval of the Minister for Foreign Affairs' travel was not conditional.

In light of the significant economic and investment matters involved and the fact that the Minister was already travelling in South America for trade portfolio business, it was considered important that the Minister for Trade and Investment also attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru in December 2014.

To provide details of proposed visits that did not proceed or have not yet happened could cause damage to Australia's international relations.