

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: Opening statement

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: I go now to the process for the appointment of the secretary. No-one made an opening statement indicating to the committee the appointment of the new secretary. I just wondered why that was?

Senator Abetz: We knew that you people had read News Ltd very thoroughly.

Senator WONG: It is a matter of accountability to parliament. It would be usual for a department to indicate a change of personnel of that nature.

Ms Cross: I am happy to take that on notice. It was not an intentional omission.

Answer:

It has been the Department's practice to not make opening statements other than to advise the Committee of changes to portfolio responsibilities.