

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: Termination of Dr Paul Grimes

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 176

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Did the Prime Minister advise Dr Grimes before he sought a report from the Secretary of PM&C about Dr Grimes' proposed termination?

Answer:

The Prime Minister did not seek a report from the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Thawley.

Based on discussions he had had with Dr Grimes, Mr Thawley concluded that the establishment of a relationship of strong mutual confidence between the Minister for Agriculture and Dr Grimes was not a realistic prospect. Mr Thawley felt that it was unlikely that Dr Grimes could adequately fulfil the statutory role of a Secretary as the principal policy adviser to the Minister.

Mr Thawley consulted Dr Grimes who concurred with this assessment.

Mr Thawley also consulted the Australian Public Service Commissioner, Mr Lloyd, who agreed with Mr Thawley's assessment.

Mr Thawley then provided a report to the Prime Minister under section 59 of the *Public Service Act 1999*, prepared after consultation with Mr Lloyd.