

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: APSC report

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 19

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 73

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Do we have the APSC date yet?

Senator Abetz: Sorry, the APS?

Senator WONG: APSC report.

Senator Abetz: Look, I will have to take that on notice. I do not seem to have that information in the briefing folder.

Senator WONG: We are still waiting for someone to provide Ms Kelly with some assistance.

Ms Kelly: The way the question was asked was on what date did the Prime Minister seek a report from the Public Service Commissioner on the appointment of Mr Thawley, and my recollection of the events is that the department actually made that request of the Public Service Commission, and so—

Answer:

The proposed appointment of Mr Thawley as the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was the subject of discussions between the former Secretary and the former Australian Public Service Commissioner in October 2014.

Section 58 of the *Public Service Act 1999* provides that 'before recommending to the Governor-General that a person be appointed as the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department, the Prime Minister must have received a report about the appointment prepared by the Commissioner.