

**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:** Recruitment process

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 21

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 74 & 75

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: So, if it was not managed by you or the department, who was it managed by?

Ms Cross: We are not aware of any recruitment process.

Senator WONG: So who managed it?

Ms Kelly: As I said, I was advised of the appointment by the former secretary of the department, who was dealing with the matter directly with the Prime Minister.

Senator WONG: When were you advised by Dr Watt?

Ms Kelly: I will have to take it on notice to give you the date for that.

Senator WONG: Well, presumably before he retired.

Ms Kelly: Yes.

Senator WONG: Well before?

Ms Kelly: I will have to make some inquiries. It was definitely before he retired.

**Answer:**

The department was advised by the former Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that the Prime Minister was considering Mr Thawley for the role of Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on or around 21 October 2014.