

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: Order of the Senate

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 25

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator WONG: You did; it was late. I am going to go to the content of it, but I first want to know why it was late.

Senator Abetz: I will have to go into the detail of that.

Senator WONG: Okay. When did the department prepare the draft statement pursuant to the Senate order and when was it submitted to the Prime Minister's office or Senator Abetz's office?

Senator Abetz: We will take that on notice as well.

Senator WONG: The department does not know when it prepared it?

Ms Kelly: I think Senator Abetz has indicated that we will take it on notice. We can certainly find that date for you.

Senator WONG: I am going to get another run-around answer, am I? So I will have to put more questions no notice. Will I get another non-answer to this question?

Ms Cross: We have taken it on notice.

Senator WONG: Maybe you could answer it.

Ms Kelly: We can get that information.

Senator WONG: When was that draft statement prepared and submitted either to the Prime Minister's office and/or to Senator Abetz's office? Can you tell me who in the department prepared it?

Ms Kelly: That was prepared under my authority by my staff.

Senator WONG: Were there any changes either in the Prime Minister's office or Senator Abetz's office? And can you explain to me why the statement provided does not comply with the order? Not only does it not comply in terms of time frame; it does not comply in terms of content.

Senator Abetz: I do not have the correspondence here.

Senator WONG: Ms Kelly, did the draft you prepared comply with the Senate's order or not?

Ms Kelly: I think the minister has indicated we will take that on notice.

Answer:

1. The Department submitted a draft statement to the Prime Minister on 6 February 2015.
2. Senator Abetz provided a statement to the Senate on 20 February 2015.