

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: Contact between PMO, AFP & DPP

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: Was there any contact between PMO, or through PM&C, and the DPP—or if you are aware of any contact between the PMO and the DPP—prior to the statement being issued? I am just trying to cover—

Ms Cross: Yes, understood.

Senator LUDWIG: all of the questions that I could possibly ask on this issue so that you answer appropriately.

Senator Abetz: I am sure there are more if you thought about. But I am not tempting you, be assured.

Senator LUDWIG: No, no. It is just that earlier today I had to re-ask. There was an interesting question put in another portfolio where their answer was "no", whereas quite plainly there was a document and it was produced. Upon reflection, the public servant indicated that it was not a mislead; the answer was not contemporaneous. I do not know what that means. It clearly—

Senator Abetz: At the time the answer was given one assumes there was no document in existence. But one has since come into existence, I would imagine.

Senator LUDWIG: Yes, it seems to be that. Did the PM&C communicate with the DPP or the CDPP in relation to the matter? This is without input from the Prime Minister or PMO.

Ms Cross: We will check that for you.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not communicate with the Director of Public Prosecutions /Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions before or after the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament on 12 February 2015.

Refer to PM27.