

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: Future submarine programme – media announcement

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: Dr McCarthy, before I go to the next point, you said you had something.

Dr McCarthy: Mr Sadleir has some information for you.

Mr Sadleir: I am advised that our embassy in Sweden notified the Swedish authorities before the Minister for Defence's media statement on 20 February 2015, and the embassy notified the Swedes that they would not be invited to participate in the evaluation process.

Senator WONG: What does that mean—'before'? A week before? Minutes before? Days before?

Mr Sadleir: I believe it was the night before.

Senator WONG: Was there any contact made with other governments advising them of the content of the announcement?

Ms Cross: I think we will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not contact any foreign governments to advise them of the content of the Australian Government's announcement on the acquisition strategy for the Future Submarine programme.