

**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:** Ms Credlin's comments

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 48

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 114

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: I am going to ask a question about the relationship with the US, and obviously there is a strong bipartisan commitment to the alliance and a strong relationship with the US. Can you explain to me, Senator Abetz. Ms Credlin is reported as telling a group of journalists that the President of the United States is 'the lamest of lame ducks'. Could you explain to me how that is consistent with a position that recognises the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with the United States?

Senator Abetz: I do not know whether she said that or not. I will take that on notice. It is an assertion that is made.

**Answer:**

The Department is not aware of conversations that may or may not have been had by staff in the Prime Minister's Office with external stakeholders including the media.