

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: Mr Gupta

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: Did you prepare a brief in relation to Mr Gupta.

Senator Abetz: That then answers the question, doesn't it—whether it went to cabinet or not?

Senator WONG: Are you really going to avoid answering a question about whether the appointment of a co-chair of Liberal Friends of India as the chair of SBS did or did not go to cabinet? Do you really want that to be the story?

Senator ABETZ: I do not think they are holding the front pages for it.

Senator Abetz: Did you prepare a brief in relation to Mr Gupta?

Ms Cross: I think I indicated earlier that ministers may choose to disclose whether something goes to cabinet or not, but we do not normally volunteer that information at a Senate estimates.

Senator WONG: I am just asking whether there was a brief prepared in the Cabinet Division.

Ms Cross: That would mean we were confirming whether it had been to cabinet or not. As I said earlier, we do not normally indicate what has or has not gone to cabinet.

Senator WONG: Mr Fox, you are refusing to answer whether a brief was prepared by your division in relation to Mr Gupta?

Mr Fox: No, I do not recall the answer, so I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Yes. A brief was prepared by Cabinet Division.