

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Knights and Dames

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

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Question:

Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask about the announcement on 2 November 2015, in relation to knighthoods and damehoods:

The Prime Minister announced today that Her Majesty The Queen has agreed to the Government's recommendation to remove Knights and Dames from the Order of Australia. On what date was the Prime Minister's recommendation communicated to the Governor-General and to the palace?

Ms E Kelly: I will need to take that on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: Could you also tell us on what date the letters patent were amended.

Ms E Kelly: I will take that on notice, as well. Sorry, I do not have those dates in the briefing material. What were those questions again?

Senator McALLISTER: The question was: on what date was this recommendation communicated to the Governor-General and to the palace?

Ms E Kelly: Sadly, that date is not in my time line that has been provided, but I will take that on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: The second question was: on what date were the letters patent amended?

Ms E Kelly: I believe that was 19 March—sorry, I apologise; the chronology is going backwards rather than forwards. I will have to take that on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: Could a copy of the amendment be provided.

Ms E Kelly: Yes.

Senator McALLISTER: Has the change been gazetted? That may be in your time line.

Ms E Kelly: It has.

Senator McALLISTER: On what date was that?

Ms E Kelly: We will have to take that date on notice.

Answer:

On Friday 23 October 2015, the Prime Minister signed letters to the Governor-General and Her Majesty The Queen recommending the removal of Knights and Dames from the Constitution of the Order of Australia. Government House received those letters on Monday 26 October 2015 and forwarded the recommendation to The Queen on the same day.

The Queen approved amendments to the Letters Patent to abolish Knights and Dames from the Order of Australia on 29 October 2015. Amendments to the Letters Patent were gazetted on 22 December 2015 (attached).