

**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:** Letter from Mr Truss to Mr Turnbull

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question reference number:** 34

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 8 February 2016, page 132

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 14 September 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: Now I am asking about the department's knowledge of the letter. A number of departmental officials have seen it in various capacities. I am now asking: does the department retain a copy?

Ms E Kelly: The letter was one that the officers concerned considered was political in nature, and so not a departmental communication. I will have to take on notice whether we retained a copy. It may have come on one of our systems, in which case we would have a copy. But it was not a letter that we considered a departmental letter.

Senator WONG: I am not suggesting you created it, but do you retain a copy of the letter?

Ms E Kelly: I will have to take it on notice. As I said, it was a political letter. It was the way that it was seen by the officers in question, and so it was not one that was part of the department's business.

Senator WONG: My question simply is whether or not any officer of the department retains a copy of the letter.

Ms Cross: And we have taken that on notice.

**Answer:**

Yes.