

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: Tweet referencing NSC discussion

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 40

Type of question: FPA Monday 8 February 2016, page 140

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Okay, then I will ask on notice. Was any departmental officer aware of Mr Andrews' tweet referencing a NSC discussion? Was any investigation of that undertaken? Was there any communication with Mr Andrews in relation to that matter? Does the obligation upon the former minister of defence as to confidentiality of NSC discussions subsist?

Ms Kelly: That is a matter that I would need to take on notice.

Senator WONG: I want all of those taken on notice, please.

Answer:

Departmental officials were aware of Mr Andrews tweet.

No investigation was undertaken.

There was no communication between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and Mr Andrews regarding this matter.

The former Minister for Defence remains subject to Cabinet confidentiality.