

**Question: 8****Topic: Appointment of the new Deputy Clerk of the Senate****Received: 20 March 2017****Senator Wong asked:**

Following the appointment of a new Deputy Clerk of the Senate, is there likely to be any other reorganisation of positions in the Department of the Senate, other than consequential changes that would naturally flow if an existing member of the department filled the vacant position?

**Answer:**

Ms Maureen Weeks was appointed to the position at the end of March 2017. A recruitment process to fill the resultant vacancy is underway. As noted in response to question 7, the Clerk has taken a policy decision to enhance procedural and legislative support for non-government senators. It is expected that the Deputy Clerk will work together with the Clerk Assistant (Procedure) and other staff to provide this additional support. The Clerk plans to bring a number of other staff into procedural support roles on and around sitting days. This is likely to involve assigning new duties to existing staff. Any substantive organisational changes that follow will be discussed with the President and Deputy President of the Senate, and put before the Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee.