

Additional Estimates Question on Notice — March 2017

109 **Senator the Hon. Penny Wong:** asked the President of the Senate—

Senator WONG: Okay. What was the time frame between the request and you giving that answer?

The President: I will have to take advice on that.

Senator WONG: It was on the same day?

The President: Absolutely.

Senator WONG: Did you respond in writing or only verbally?

The President: Verbally to my chief of staff and—

Senator WONG: Can I have a copy of that correspondence, that note?

The President: It is an email from my chief of staff to the Speaker's chief of staff. I am happy to provide it to you, Senator Wong, whether or not we provide it publicly. I will certainly give it to you, whether or not it is for public release.

Senator WONG: That is helpful—so then I cannot do anything with it, can I, if it is only to me?

The President: Again, it may be something that I can provide to the committee.

Senator WONG: Okay. If you can take that on notice and consider it.

Answer

My Office responded on my behalf to a request from the Office of the Speaker in relation to filming outside the Childcare Centre on 9 February 2017 at 0815 advising the following:

Re the filming request outside the Childcare Centre this morning, the President will only give his approval if the Childcare Centre has agreed to the filming in its vicinity, that children are not filmed unless there has been specific agreement with the Centre and parents and relevant safeguards are enforced, and the media activity is supervised by an appropriate officer of the relevant parliamentary department.

The President believes that DPS should be advised and should confirm the arrangements itself with the Childcare Centre.

If these can be implemented, the President will agree to the request.