

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Adviser roles – International Division

Senator: Wong, Penny

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Question:

Senator WONG: I will ask a couple of questions. I may have to put them on notice because we were probably too kind and said to Mr McKinnon, 'Go home.' There are a couple of adviser roles in the international division that I am a little confused about. There is a position of Chief Adviser International and then there is the position of Principal Adviser International. Are you able to tell me what the difference is?

Ms E Kelly: I am not, Senator Wong. Those positions are in Mr McKinnon's area. So I do not know the detail of that.

Senator WONG: Can you tell me: in your org chart they are placed where you would usually see assistant secretaries. In terms of their classification or their seniority, are they the equivalent of an assistant secretary? Do they report to the FAS of the division?

Ms E Kelly: I am not sure, Senator Wong. I will have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Okay. I will put them on notice. I wanted to know this, though: did the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's office have any input into the establishment of the roles or the selection of candidates for these roles?

Ms E Kelly: That is something that we would really have to ask Mr McKinnon, Senator Wong.

Senator WONG: So are you taking that on notice?

Ms E Kelly: Yes.

Senator WONG: Could you please provide the committee with the job notice published in the Gazette and full job selection criteria for each of those roles.

Ms E Kelly: Yes.

Answer:

The positions of Chief Adviser International and Principal Adviser International are equivalent to First Assistant Secretary positions. Both positions report to the Deputy Secretary for National Security.

The Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet established the two positions.

Neither position was published in the APS Gazette.