

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.1

Topic: Attendance at OGP meetings

Senator: Faulkner

Question reference number: F24

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 72, 28 May 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FAULKNER: ... Was it the intention of the Department of Finance to be represented and for you to go to that meeting prior to the Prime Minister's decision, which was made a few days—as we have just heard in PM&C estimates—

Senator Cormann: I certainly recall consulting with the Attorney General about how we should deal with this pending the government's deliberations around the ultimate status of the Australian government when it comes to the Open Government Partnership, but I might just want to go back to my notes to refresh my memory. Maybe I could give you some more detail on notice.

Answer:

The Department of Finance requested advice from the Prime Minister's Office on whether the Prime Minister would accept the invitation to attend the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee Meeting on 4-5 May 2014 and from the Minister of Finance's office on whether he would attend the Regional Meeting on 6-7 May 2014. Finance suggested that, should the Minister not be able to attend, Finance could send an officer as an observer. This was the option chosen.