

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Termination of departmental secretaries – opportunity to respond

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 103

Type of Question: FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, page 114

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Was an opportunity to respond given to the secretaries?

Ms Kelly: Yes.

Senator WONG: Did any of them take it up?

Ms Kelly: I believe that one may have taken that opportunity.

Senator WONG: What does "an opportunity to respond" mean?

Ms Kelly: An opportunity to provide any material to be considered before the decision is made.

Senator WONG: So who provided the secretaries with an opportunity to respond?

Was that Dr Watt or—how did you describe him?—the Prime Minister-designate?

Ms Kelly: I believe it was Dr Watt. I will confirm that.

Senator WONG: Could you also indicate to me—I do not need to know the content of it—the manner of the communication of the response from the one secretary who did avail himself of that.

Ms Kelly: I believe that was in writing.

Senator WONG: Was that forwarded to the Prime Minister-designate?

Ms Kelly: I do not know the answer to that question, but I can take that on notice.

Answer:

Yes the communication was attached to the report under section 59 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.