

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 – reports and recommendations

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 104

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: I asked a range of questions in question on notice 85 which are not answered. Ms Kelly, given the time, unless you really want to I was not proposing to go through (a) to (l), but a number of those were not answered. Can I be clear, via the minister, whether there is a public interest immunity claim being made, or is there another basis on which a number of these questions are not answered?

Ms Kelly: I might have to get used to particularise parts of the question.

Senator WONG: Paragraph (a) on what date did drafting commence on the secretary PM&C's report to the Prime Minister about the termination; (b) on what date did the Prime Minister seek a report from the secretary about the proposed terminations; (c) what was the form of the request; (d) on what date did the secretary consult with the APSC ahead of the preparation of his reports about the proposed termination; (e) what was the form of the secretary's consultations with the APSC; (f) on what date did the secretary provide his reports on the proposed termination of the Prime Minister; (g) how many reports were provided; (h) you have taken on notice—on what date did PM&C commence drafting recommendations in relation to the EXCO papers; (i) on what date was a copy of the draft recommendations to the Governor-General provided to the Prime Minister or his office; (j) on what date was a final copy of the recommendations to the Governor-General provided to the Prime Minister or his office; (k) I think you have now answered—which was the morning of the 18th, I think; (l) I think you have answered—which is delivered on the morning of the 18th. I maintain my request for all of those.

Answer:

See answer to PM 102.