

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Budget Estimates – May 2014

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Official Secretary

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: QoN 160

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

On what date was Mr Fraser appointed Acting Secretary? How was the Acting Secretary appointed?

On what date does Mr Brady's appointment as Official Secretary conclude?

What arrangements govern the "consultations and trainings" for Mr Brady during the period before his appointment concludes?

On what date was the Finance and Public Administration Committee informed Mr Brady would not appear at the Budget Estimates hearing?

Answer:

Mr Fraser was appointed by Instrument dated 16 May 2013 to act as Official Secretary when the Official Secretary is unable to perform the duties of that office for any reason. He assumed the role on 26 May 2014.

Mr Brady's appointment as Official Secretary was formally terminated on 26 June 2014.

Mr Brady was required by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to attend compulsory training courses, consultations and briefings organised by the department in the weeks leading up to his departure on posting.

The Office advised the Finance and Public Administration Committee that Mr Fraser would attend the Budget Estimates hearing on 23 May 2014 as Acting Official Secretary. A directive to inform the Committee of this on 19 May was unfortunately not followed up, owing to an administrative oversight.