

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: Executive Council – 18 September 2013

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: QoN 162

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 1

At what time on 18 September 2013 did the Executive Council meeting commence?

At what time did the meeting conclude?

Did the Official Secretary have any notice before the submission of papers on the morning of the meeting that the Governor-General would be asked to terminate the appointment of three departmental secretaries? If so, when and how was this notice received?

Did Government House inform the three secretaries they had been terminated, or was that a matter for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet?

Answer:

The Executive Council meeting held on 18 September 2013 commenced at approximately 10:30am.

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:40am.

The Official Secretary was advised orally on the evening of 17 September that there would be a number of items on the agenda for the Executive Council meeting, including in relation to departments and secretaries.

The Office did not have contact with those affected.