

**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:** Agency-funded website

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 188

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Is the website [www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au) funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet?

Do the Guidelines for Ministerial and Agency Websites provide that “material that relates solely to party political issues or that could be categorised as ‘how to vote’ material may not be placed on an agency-funded site”?

Is the department aware the video titled “A Message from the Prime Minister – WA Senate Election” and published on the website [www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au) on 30 March 2014, during the 2014 WA Senate election campaign, promotes “the West Australian Liberal team”, includes the warning “if you vote for minor party candidates you just don’t know who you will end up with” and contains other party political statements? Have any officers of PM&C raised concerns about party political material placed on the website [www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au) with (a) more senior PM&C officers or (b) the Prime Minister’s office?

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. There are regular discussions between officers of the Department and staff in the Prime Minister’s Office on matters relating to the [pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au) website, but not in relation to the video titled “A Message from the Prime Minister – WA Senate Election”.