

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: PM attendance at Deakin University event

Senator: Senator Sam Dastyari

Question reference number: 44

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

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Question:

Senator DASTYARI: I want to talk specifically about the decision that was made on 21 May 2014 to not attend an event at Deakin University. What role would the department have had in that? Was that directly between the PMO and the AFP? Or was the department involved in that decision?

Ms Kelly: I am not aware that we had a role, but I will take it on notice and make inquiries to confirm that that is the case.

Senator DASTYARI: If you were to have a role, would it have been you who would have had that role? Or would that be Dr Watt? How does it work?

Ms Kelly: I would need to find out whether we had a role before I would be able to speculate on where it lay. I can say that I am not aware of us having a role in relation to that.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had no role in relation to attendance of the Prime Minister at the event at Deakin University. These arrangements are made directly between the Prime Minister's Office and the Australian Federal Police.