

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2015-16**

**Question on Notice – No. 6**

**Senator Ludwig:** asked the President of the Senate on 25 May 2015 the following:

Hansard, 25 May 2015, p. 62.

**Senator WONG:** That is all right. Was it your intention at some point—because it is a parliamentary department—to advise parliament? How were you proposing to do that?

**The President:** I think we did, but can I take that on notice.

**Senator WONG:** Sure. I meant formally as opposed to informally.

**The President:** Yes.

**Senator WONG:** The statement that I think there has been some evidence about—

**The President:** Just to add to that answer, if we did not, we intended to, and the media events overtook it. That is probably what may or may not have happened, but let me check. I know what our intention was; it is just what we actually did.

**Mr President, the Hon Stephen Parry answers:**

While there is no legislative requirement for formal advice concerning the termination of the Secretary to be issued by the Presiding Officers, it is my practice to always keep my fellow senators informed.

I was intending to discreetly advise my fellow senators but media coverage of the former Secretary's termination overtook this. The news of the former Secretary's termination had reached everyone and there was no need for any further statement on such a sensitive matter that had already been placed in the public spotlight.

Notwithstanding this the Committee itself was formally notified given its oversight of DPS, along with the heads of the other parliamentary departments.