

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

**Question on Notice – No. 7**

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

Hansard, 25 May 2015, p. 63.

**Senator WONG:** No, just the process and time line. You might have given evidence about this, Mr President, for the appointment of a new secretary. Would you prefer to put that on notice?

**Senator Parry:** No—I am happy to describe what is currently happening. We have already engaged the Parliamentary Service Commissioner in assisting with the appointment of an acting secretary potentially, prior to a permanent secretary, and potentially with conducting a review prior to any further formal appointment. These are all matters we are discussing currently with the Parliamentary Service Commissioner, as recently as today in fact.

**Senator WONG:** Are you proposing to discuss it with anyone else?

**The President:** We will, but not at this point. We are just putting out—

**Senator WONG:** With all due respect to the Parliamentary Service Commissioner, there are a number of people in this place who have had a long relationship with DPS.

**The President:** I have some very firm views, and the Speaker concurs that we want a wide consultation. I have already flagged some of my views privately with the committee about how we may do consultation further.

**Senator WONG:** Could you take that on notice when you have worked out what you are doing?

**The President:** We will certainly provide the information to the committee. If you want that formally on notice, we can do that. I do not know what I can provide on notice for this process apart from just letting you know after we have made each step.

**Senator WONG:** You have just given evidence that you have not determined yet—and that is fine—your process or time line for appointing a secretary, so I am suggesting that, when you do, you could provide that. Is that possible?

**The President:** If we develop a time line along the lines that you are speaking about—yes.

**Senator WONG:** Along with what the process will be?

**The President:** For the process at the moment we are hoping to have something finalised this week. The Speaker and I and the Parliamentary Service Commissioner have some statutory obligations. Once we have established clearly the path forward, there will be consultation certainly with the committee in a private capacity and there will be wider consultation.

**Senator WONG:** Again, when you have established that can you give us that answer?

**The President:** We will keep you

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

The presiding officers cannot appoint a new Secretary for the Department of Parliamentary Services unless they have received a report about the vacancy from the Parliamentary Service Commissioner – Parliamentary Service Act 1999 s59(2).

This is the next step in the process and the Commissioner has begun developing such a report. I will continue to keep fellow senators informed of the process.