

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Heydon interim report

Senator: Senator Jacqui Lambie

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Question:

Senator LAMBIE: As you would be aware, the Australian Building and Corruption Commission is coming up and the crossbench senators need to take a vote on this. This is of significant importance. In your experience, is there any way that report or those secret documents could be shown to the crossbenchers, like the DLA Piper Vol. 2 when it came to Defence abuse? We were able to view those behind closed doors and sign confidentiality forms not to reveal any of that information. None of that was redacted, as you would know, and we were able to have access to that. Is there any reason, in your experience, why this could not be done with these reports?

Ms Kelly: I have not read the confidential report and I do not know the exact nature of the material in it. I would put great store in former Justice Heydon's marking of the report as confidential as indicating that it is material that would not be appropriate to make public. Whether or not there is some ability to share in some form some of that material is something that I can take on notice and that we can further consider. But as I have not seen the report I would be reluctant to express a view about whether or not it was either possible or appropriate to provide it any further.

Answer:

These issues were addressed in correspondence from the former Prime Minister to Senator Lambie dated 12 August 2015.