

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: Parliament House Security

Senator: Senator Katy Gallagher

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Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: Certainly. And I presume that the Security Management Board would be—hopefully—made aware of changing circumstances as well.

The chair of the task force is the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Why was the task force not co-chaired by both the Presiding Officers?

Dr McCarthy: That is a matter for the Presiding Officers.

Senator Cormann: That is really a matter for the Presiding Officers. It really goes beyond the scope of the Prime Minister's portfolio.

Senator GALLAGHER: The DPS submission says the Prime Minister's request was that a task force be established, to be chaired by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senator Cormann: Let me take that on notice to see whether there is anything else that we can add to it.

Answer:

The Department confirms that this is a matter for the Presiding Officers.