

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: Future Submarines Program

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: There was a report in The Australian Financial Review earlier this month which quoted a Japanese spokesperson saying, "The relevant ministries in Tokyo are discussing how we can help Australia" and confirming that confidential data about the Soryu class submarines would be handed over to Australia in May. Is PM&C aware of whether or not this data has been handed over?

Dr McCarthy: Questions on the engagement with Japan on that sort of information exchange are best put to Defence, which is leading that process.

Senator WONG: I will ask them, Dr McCarthy, but given the interest of the Prime Minister and his office on this, I am simply asking if you are aware of this.

Dr McCarthy: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is aware that information will be exchanged between the Department of Defence and France, Germany and Japan as part of the competitive evaluation process.