

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: The Daily Telegraph report

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 46

Type of question: FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, pages 58 & 59

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: You might want to get that first. I will come back to that. Minister, can I ask you, as the Minister representing the Prime Minister, did the Prime Minister authorise any member of his staff to brief the Daily Telegraph yesterday that he would: " ... announce today, after cabinet last night approved the policy, that a bill will be introduced before the end of June that would strip dual national terrorist sympathisers of their Australian citizenship"?

Senator Cormann: I am unaware, and I will have to take that question on notice.

...

Senator WONG: Process questions have been asked tonight, and answered. Was there a discussion paper, dealing with this issue, discussed by cabinet last night?

Senator Cormann: I am not going to get into the agenda that is before cabinet. I will take the question on notice and to the extent that I can assist you further, I will.

...

Senator WONG: If we could recap the question, and I understand you have taken it on notice: did any member of the Prime Minister's staff or other member of the government or their staff brief The Daily Telegraph about the proposed announcement prior to cabinet consideration?

...

Senator Cormann: I am happy to take the question on notice and, to the extent that there is anything that we can do to assist you, we will provide that information for you

Answer:

It is longstanding practice of successive governments not to disclose matters that may or may not be before Cabinet and its Committees.