

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: Prime Minister meeting with President Hollande

Senator: Senator Bridget McKenzie

Question reference number: 56

Type of question: FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, pages 73 & 74

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McKENZIE: What were the substantive outcomes of that particular meeting?

Ms Wood: I believe that both sides put out a press release afterwards. President Hollande certainly put out a press release. The Prime Minister also put one out, particularly speaking about increased counter-terrorism cooperation between Australia and France.

Senator McKENZIE: Are there further details?

Ms Wood: No. I do not subscribe to President Hollande's press release service. I am happy to find that for you.

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Senator McKENZIE: Is there a program in place going forward to setting up that sense of cooperation?

Dr McCarthy: We already have cooperation with France on a range of issues. We can take on notice the progress that has been made on the exchange issue since the visit.

Answer:

In mid-June an Australian police delegation visited France for a series of briefings on the January terrorist attacks, in particular a detailed case study on the police response to the Porte de Vincennes supermarket siege.

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, will continue to engage with French counterparts to pursue counter-terrorism cooperation initiatives, building on already established links.