

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Heads of departments

Senator: Senator Sam Dastyari

Question reference number: 1

Type of Question: Hansard

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Outline the protocol, reasoning and rationale behind the report provided to the Prime Minister on the proposed termination of departmental secretaries.

Answer:

Section 59 of the *Public Service Act 1999* provides for the termination of the appointment of a Secretary. Before recommending to the Governor-General that the appointment of a Secretary of a Department, other than the Prime Minister's Department, be terminated the Prime Minister must have received a report about the proposed termination from the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department (subsection 59(3)). This report must be prepared in consultation with the Australian Public Service Commissioner (subsection 59(4)).

The requirements of section 59 were complied with.

The provision of an outline of the reasoning and rationale of the report would disclose personal information and breach the privacy of the individuals concerned.