

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: 4

Type of Question: Hansard

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FAULKNER: Hearing that, could you perhaps take on notice for us when the formal written communication from the Prime Minister was dated and when it was received in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. I am not expecting you to know precisely what happened and I'm not going to ask what happened in the Prime Minister's Office.

Ms Cross: Yes.

Senator FAULKNER: Perhaps, I could ask you, minister, if you would take on notice whether that communication or three communications could be tabled at the committee.

Senator Abetz: Alright, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

There was no formal written communication from the Prime Minister terminating the appointment of a Secretary. Since 1 July 2013 the Public Service Act provides that the appointments of Secretaries are terminated by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Prime Minister.