

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 the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 7

Type of Question: Hansard

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Just on this, 59(4)(b) contemplates the possibility of disagreement and, if that occurs, that has to be explained under the statute, the substance of the disagreement. Was 59(4)(b) relevant to any of the reports?

Ms Kelly: Again, I have not seen the report so I cannot answer that question, but we can take it on notice.

Senator WONG: This is mandatory. So 59(4) is couched in the "must", so I am asking whether or not, as a result of the application of that section, there was in the reports an explanation of the substance of the disagreement. Thank you.

Answer:

There was no disagreement between the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Australian Public Service Commissioner which required an explanation under section 59(4).