

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: Acting Cabinet Secretary

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 100

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. On what date was the First Assistant Secretary of the Ministerial Support Division, Mr Jamie Fox, asked to consider a secondment to the Office of the Prime Minister?
2. Who asked Mr Fox to consider the secondment?
3. Was the Secretary of PM&C consulted on the proposed secondment? If so, (a) on what date/s and (b) by whom?
4. Who approved the secondment?
5. On what date was the secondment approved?
6. Was a period of secondment approved? If so, what was the approved period?
7. On what date did Mr Fox's secondment commence?
8. On what date did Mr Fox commence in the role of Acting Cabinet Secretary?
9. What functions does the Acting Cabinet Secretary perform?
10. During the period of the secondment who is Mr Fox's employer?
11. During the period of secondment is Mr Fox required to observe the APS Code of Conduct or the Statement of Standards for Ministerial Staff?
12. Does the department provide briefs for decision to Mr Fox?

Answer:

1. 12 September 2013 to the Cabinet Office.
2. The Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
3. The Prime Minister consulted the Secretary on 12 September 2013.
4. The Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
5. 18 September 2013.

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6. In accordance with the provisions of the MoPS Act and associated employment framework, vacancies under the MoPS Act for up to 12 weeks are filled by departmental officers.
7. 18 September 2013.
8. 18 September 2013.
9. The Acting Cabinet Secretary is responsible for managing the Cabinet process on behalf of the Prime Minister. He does not perform any functions in the Prime Minister's Office.
10. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
11. During his period of secondment Mr Fox is bound by the APS Code of Conduct.
12. No