

**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:** Government Staffing Committee

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 21

**Type of Question:** Hansard

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: If the process you are suggesting is the government's process, it would not be possible, would it, for the Prime Minister of the day to read the applications, CVs et cetera of candidates for 420 positions. Unless you stop doing—

Senator Abetz: Nobody has ever suggested that he has or does.

Senator WONG: Let's work at it this way. You have been through this process.

Senator Abetz: He acts on advice, and I have indicated that to you before—

Senator WONG: The advice of the Government Staffing Committee?

Senator Abetz: Yes.

Senator WONG: Is that advice provided in writing?

Senator Abetz: To whom?

Senator WONG: The Prime Minister. You said he is the decision-maker and he acts on advice. Is the advice provided to the Prime Minister in writing?

Senator Abetz: I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure on that detail.

**Answer:**

No.