

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: 32

Type of Question: Hansard

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Are you aware of other ministers who have had staffing requests knocked back by the committee?

Senator Cash: No, I am not.

Senator WONG: So you are not aware of Mr Victor Perton, whom Mr Hockey allegedly sought to appoint within his office who was not permitted to be by the staffing committee?

Senator Cash: No, I am not.

Senator WONG: You are not aware of Senator Abetz' chief of staff not being ticked off by—

Senator Cash: No, I am not.

Senator WONG: You are not aware of Senator Sinodinos' request for chief of staff not being—

Senator Cash: No, I am not.

Senator WONG: Can you take on notice whether any of those appointments were in fact declined by the staffing committee? I do not need to know all the names. I put one of them on the record because it is already public.

Senator Cash: I can take those questions on notice.

Answer:

The Government Staff Committee makes recommendations to the Prime Minister on ministerial staff appointments. The Government Staff Committee neither approves or declines staff appointments. All decisions on staff appointments are made by the Prime Minister.