

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: Termination of secretaries

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 85

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

In relation to the termination of departmental secretaries in September 2013, and with reference to evidence by Ms Elizabeth Kelly, Deputy Secretary, to the Supplementary Estimates hearing on 18 November 2013:

- (a) on what date did drafting commence on the Secretary of PM&C's reports to the Prime Minister about the proposed terminations?
- (b) on what date did the Prime Minister seek a report from the Secretary of PM&C about the proposed terminations?
- (c) what was the form of the request?
- (d) on what date/s did the Secretary of PM&C consult with the Australian Public Service Commissioner ahead of the preparation of his reports about the proposed terminations?
- (e) what was the form of the Secretary of PM&C's consultations with the Australian Public Service Commissioner?
- (f) on what date did the Secretary of PM&C provide his reports on the proposed terminations to the Prime Minister?
- (g) how many reports were provided?
- (h) on what date did PM&C commence drafting recommendations from the Prime Minister to Her Excellency the Governor-General on the proposed terminations?
- (i) on what date/s was a copy of draft recommendations to the Governor-General provided to the Prime Minister or his office?
- (j) on what date was a final copy of recommendations to the Governor-General provided to the Prime Minister or his office?
- (k) on what date were the Prime Minister's recommendations on the termination of secretaries transmitted to Government House?

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

(1) how were the Prime Minister's recommendations transmitted to Government House?

Answer:

Three Secretaries were advised on 14 September 2013 that the incoming Government was proposing either the abolition of their Department and/or the termination of their appointments and that the incoming government did not propose to make them an offer of alternative employment. All appropriate steps were taken in compliance with the *Public Service Act 1999* and the requirements of procedural fairness. The Australian Public Service Commissioner was consulted in accordance with the Act. The instruments and accompanying documentation to terminate the appointments and abolish the Department were considered by the Governor-General in Council on 18 September 2013.