

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: Lease for PM's accommodation

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 88

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Was the Secretary of PM&C advised or consulted on the department's decision to sign a 12 month lease on 31 August 2013 for accommodation for the incoming Prime Minister valued at \$13,035.71 per month? If so, (a) on what date/s and (b) what was the form of the advice or consultation?

What details about the property did the department provide to Mr Abbott's office in August 2013 when it extended an invitation for Mr and Mrs Abbott to inspect the property?

On what date did the Prime Minister inform the department he did not wish to occupy the property?

Has the department reviewed its internal procedures for entering into contractual arrangements during the caretaker period, especially where contractual arrangements concern incoming office holders and involve the expenditure of significant sums of public money?

Answer:

- 1 Yes
 - (a) On several occasions.
 - (b) Orally and in writing.
- 2 PM&C advised it had selected a property for rent while The Lodge was being refurbished and extended an invitation to view it.
- 3 12 September 2013.
- 4 The Department complied with the caretaker conventions.