

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Submarine Corporation Pty Ltd

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Resignation of former ASC Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Senator: Wong, Ludwig

Question reference number: F116

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 5, 20 November 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Did he have a discussion with you or your office or the Defence minister's office prior to that resignation?

Senator Cormann: Not with me. I would not expect any conversation with the Defence minister, given that I am the shareholder minister for the ASC, the sole shareholder minister for the ASC.

Senator WONG: That is true, but Mr Costello, who is the Defence minister's Chief of Staff, used to work at the ASC. So I just wondered if there was some conversation there.

Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice, I suspect not. The communication with me was with the chair of the ASC board who advised me of the considerations of the board and of the fact that Mr Ludlam tendered his resignation.

...

Senator LUDWIG: When he tendered that resignation, were there any reasons provided?

Ms Hall: I would have to go back to the correspondence and take that on notice for you.

Ms Halton: No, not that I can recall, but we will check that.

Answer:

There were no discussions between the office of the Finance Minister and Mr Ludlam regarding Mr Ludlam's resignation.

Finance is not aware of any discussions between Mr Ludlam and the Defence Minister's office regarding Mr Ludlam's resignation.

The Department is not aware of the reasons, if any, provided by Mr Ludlam when he tendered his resignation. Consistent with Mr Ludlam's conditions of employment he had previously indicated to the Board of ASC his intention not to extend his employment contract which was due to expire in January 2015.