

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Mr Gupta – details of Cabinet appointment

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 13

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 20 October 2014, pages 126 & 127

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 5 December 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: I also note that there was a report in the media as to Mr Gupta's appointment. I think that was some 12 days prior to its announcement. That is a cabinet level appointment. Has the secretary initiated an investigation, or have you been asked by the Prime Minister's office to investigate how a cabinet appointment was provided to the media ahead of the announcement?

Ms Cross: Not to my knowledge.

Senator WONG: When did it go to cabinet?

Ms Cross: I would have to check the date it went to the cabinet.....

Senator WONG: I am asking when this appointment was determined by cabinet. I understand you are taking that on notice, Ms Cross; is that right?

Ms Cross: I indicated that, yes.

Senator WONG: Thank you. I am also asking: on how many occasions prior to that was the matter before cabinet?

Senator Abetz: We will take that on notice, but—

Senator WONG: Thank you. I appreciate that.

**Answer:**

Consistent with longstanding practice of successive governments details of Cabinet considerations are not disclosed.