

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio

20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Change in Prime Minister

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F102

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

After the change in Prime Minister in September 2015, it was widely reported that it took the former Prime Minister (Mr Abbott) and his staff quite some time to vacate the Prime Ministerial office. It was also reported that during this time, the New Prime Minister (Mr Turnbull) operated out of his old office (Communication Minister's office). One such article is available here:

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/office-politics-tony-abbotts-staff-slow-to-leave-their-old-digs-20150917-gjpada.html>

The following questions relate to these reports:

1. When was the PM's office made available to Mr Turnbull?
2. When was the Department informed that the PM's office had been vacated?
 - a) Was the department informed prior to the office becoming available
 - b) How was the department informed?
 - c) Who informed the department?
 - d) Could you please provide a copy of any emails, memos or other documents in the chain with the department regarding the vacation of the office?
3. When was Mr Turnbull informed that the office was available to him?
 - a) How was the Prime Minister (or his office) informed?
 - b) Who informed the Prime Minister (or his office)?
 - c) Could you please provide a copy of any emails, memos or other documents in the chain with the department regarding the vacation of the office?
4. Did the department provide any additional furniture, equipment, IT, etc to Prime Minister Turnbull or his office to use in the Communication Minister's office between his election to the leadership and his move into the Prime Minister's office? If yes, please provide a list of items and include:
 - a) Was the item in stock or purchased for this purpose?
 - b) Value of item.
 - c) What was the need for the item?
 - d) Was it requested by the Prime Minister's office? If no, then who requested it?

Answer:

1. – 3. 18 September 2015.
4. No, the Department did not provide any additional furniture or equipment.