

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Letter from the Premier of NSW relating to counter-terrorism

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 111

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Did the Prime Minister or his department receive Premier Baird's letter advocating changes to counter-terrorism laws – including a lowering of the age threshold for control orders – before, or after, its content was published in the media on 17 October 2015.

**Answer:**

Premier Baird wrote to former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, on 24 August 2015. While this letter made mention of further amendments to the Commonwealth's control order regime, it was primarily concerned with reforms to the Commonwealth's questioning and detention powers in the Commonwealth *Crimes Act 1914*.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet received a copy of this letter on 27 August 2015.

The former Prime Minister responded to the Premier on 5 September 2015.

On or around 14 October 2015, Prime Minister Turnbull was passed a letter from Premier Baird that was sent to him by the NSW Deputy Premier, Troy Grant. This letter was also concerned with reforms to the Commonwealth's questioning and detention powers.