

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: Australian military engagement in Afghanistan

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 19

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Question:

Senator WONG: Is that the total Australian military engagement currently?

Mr McKinnon: That is.

Senator WONG: Without wanting to traverse anything that we cannot traverse in public, were we aware of that prior to the US decision being made?

Mr McKinnon: Not to my knowledge.

Senator WONG: Subsequent to that decision, was the Prime Minister briefed about the content of that decision?

Mr McKinnon: He was not briefed by Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Senator WONG: To your knowledge, was he briefed by someone else?

Mr McKinnon: I would have to take that one on notice. Not to my knowledge.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not aware of any brief being provided to the Prime Minister on the content of the US decision to extend the commitment of its forces in Afghanistan.