

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: Sustenance – stock held in Prime Minister’s office

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 28

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Question:

Ms Kelly: I have some information in relation to the food and beverages—there was no bill. There were no beverages purchased specifically for the occasion. It is my understanding that the food and beverages consumed would have been that which was already held in stock.

...

Senator WONG: So the answer is yes, but you do not know what was consumed?

Ms Kelly: It was stock that was already on hand in the Prime Minister's office as part of the process of providing that.

Senator WONG: Do you have any details of that which you can give me on notice?

Ms Kelly: We can seek to make the inquiry, but I am not sure that we will be able to take the matter any further.

Answer:

Food and beverages are purchased for use in the Official Residence (including the Prime Minister’s dining room while the remedial building works to The Lodge are undertaken). They are purchased on a regular basis (in bulk wherever possible) as this is most effective use of resources and not necessarily with any functions in mind.

Food is prepared as required. Beverage stocktakes are conducted once a month at the end of each month. It is therefore not possible to quantify what may have been consumed on this or any other particular occasion.