

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: Access to Cabinet suite

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 30

Type of question: FPA Monday 19 October 2015, page 139

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: Was PM&C aware of anyone such as the Department of Finance being denied access, or MOPS being denied access, to the anteroom or cabinet suite?

Ms Kelly: I certainly was not aware of that until I heard that evidence this morning. I can make the inquiry and confirm that no-one else in the department was aware of any such direction, if it was given.

CHAIR: Just to confirm, it was not Department of Finance or MOPS who were denied access—it was the Department of Parliamentary Services.

...

Senator LUDWIG: At least we know that PM&C was not denied access. We know that those people could go about their normal work. The next question that would helpfully come from that is were you aware of the direction by the Department of Finance, Mr Frost, that the Department of Parliamentary Services did not have access to the anteroom and, if so, what was your involvement in that. It would have been a work area for Prime Minister and Cabinet employees.

Ms Kelly: I had no awareness of that. I will make the inquiry to see whether anyone else had any awareness of it in the department, but I had no awareness of it until I heard about it this morning.

Answer:

Although the Cabinet suite is a work area of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) officers, PM&C were not aware of the Department of Parliamentary Services being denied access to the area prior to the evidence at Estimates on 19 October 2015.