

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: Matters signed off by the Former Prime Minister on the morning prior to resignation

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 31

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: Earlier, also, we had evidence that the Prime Minister did not resign until I think it was something just after one o'clock the day after he was rolled by the party room. Were there any decisions, briefs or matters signed off by the Prime Minister in the morning before one o'clock? I will not ask for the content if they were cabinet documents, but were any documents signed off by the Prime Minister in his capacity as Prime Minister?

Ms Kelly: I will have to take that on notice.

...

Senator LUDWIG: Thank you. If there were any documents signed by the Prime Minister—for example, a personal letter, or alternatively a cabinet submission, brief or other document that the Prime Minister would usually sign on that day—could you also, if possible, provide a brief description of them, depending, of course, on their nature and whether you can provide them.

Ms Kelly: Yes.

Answer:

No documents relating to ministerial matters were signed by the former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, in the period following the party room meeting and prior to him submitting his resignation. The department has no information relating to any personal letters Mr Abbott may have signed during this period.