

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: Cabinet Documents printed in former Prime Minister's office

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 32

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: Were the cabinet documents printed in Mr Abbott's PMO provided to the liaison officers for destruction? In other words, what is your usual process and when did it start?

Mr Fox: Yes. The normal processes were followed. The staff you mentioned earlier, who are still doing work in that area, retrieved all cabinet documents that were held in what became the former Prime Minister's office and destroyed them in accordance with our normal practices.

Senator LUDWIG: When was that?

Mr Fox: I would have to take on notice the specific date. I think it was probably the Wednesday, but I will have to confirm that for you.

Answer:

More than 90 percent of the documents were identified and processed between Tuesday 15 September 2015 and Thursday 17 September 2015. The remaining documents were processed progressively over the following weeks, with final acquittal of documents by the Cabinet Liaison Officers occurring on Thursday 29 October 2015.