

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 2: Indigenous
Topic: RFQ – Minter Ellison

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 68

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Question:

Senator McLUCAS: That is all I need. The review was conducted as a desktop review—and that is quite in order—and it says that it drew largely on the recent report of the parliamentary inquiry. The report goes on to say that this approach was adopted as a result of the short time frame available to complete the review and because of the absence of any specific data or evidence prepared for the purposes of the review. What was the time frame that was given to Minter Ellison to complete it?

Ms Field: I would have to take on notice the exact time frame. I would like to take a step back and say that government actually saw it as an administrative review—while it is part of the legislation, we see it as an administrative review. We had sought to repeal the review, which unfortunately did not happen within the legislative time frames; therefore, to meet our requirements we enacted it. I will come back to you on notice exactly when Minter Ellison put in the request for quote and was selected through a procurement process for that review.

Answer:

Minter Ellison was contracted on 20 July 2015 and was given three weeks to conduct the review.