

Senate Question on Notice—Supplementary Budget Estimates 17 October 2016

46 Senator the Hon. Penny Wong: asked the President of the Senate—

With reference to the exchange at the 2015-16 Additional Estimates between the President and **Senator Wong** relating to a letter from the former prime minister Mr Abbott about an extension to the Ministerial Wing, and the undertaking from the President that he will consider providing a copy of the letter:

Why has the correspondence from the former prime minister not been provided?

Answer

The provision of this correspondence would not be appropriate due to the longstanding convention that correspondence to a Presiding Officer is not given to committees of the other chamber. In accordance with this convention, correspondence to a Speaker would not be given to Senate committees, similarly, correspondence to a President would not be given to House committees. The correspondence in question was addressed to both Presiding Officers.