

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: The Lodge – Luggage Lift

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

Question reference number: 2

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Ms Kelly: I can. I think I have spoken to the committee before about the concern in relation to the safety of staff using the front stairwell. The stairs are of an unusual depth and so we have had a member of our staff injure herself on the stairwell. It is not safe for staff to use the front staircase to carry things up and down the stairs. In addition to that, the stairs are actually one of the most significant heritage aspects of the house and so preserving the stairs—including the balustrade which is one of the most significant parts of the stairwell—are important in preserving the heritage of the house. My understanding is that the luggage lift was something that was recommended by the architects in the early stages of the refurbishment.

Senator McALLISTER: To whom was that recommended, Ms Kelly?

Ms Kelly: I can get you the detail of that, but my understanding is that it was originally in terms of the heritage value of the front staircase and the danger to staff in using the staircase to carry heavy items up the stairs. Usually it is luggage. When the Prime Minister is travelling and suitcases have to be taken up and down the stairs, then it is not safe, nor is it the best for preserving the stairwell to use it in that way.

Senator McALLISTER: Do you know the brand of the lift?

Ms Kelly: I do not.

Senator McALLISTER: Is it an Australian made lift?

Ms Kelly: I cannot answer that, but I can get that information for you.

Answer:

The first record the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been able to locate relating to the installation of a luggage lift is in the minutes of The Lodge Project Steering Committee meeting on 23 February 2012.

The Department of Finance has advised that the brand of the luggage lift is AV Lifts (Australia), model DW4000-100 and that it is an Australian made lift.