

**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:** Ministerial Communications

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question reference number:** 6

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 44

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 1.

**Question:**

Senator WONG: Can you retrieve WhatsApp communications? If I were to put in an FOI application to you and to the Prime Minister seeking communications, including those on WhatsApp, could you retrieve them?

Ms Kelly: Would that be an FOI application to the Prime Minister or to the department?

Senator WONG: Say I did both, could you retrieve them?

Ms Kelly: I would have to get advice on that.

Senator WONG: What I want to know is: could you retrieve them?

Ms Kelly: I can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

WhatsApp communications stored on portable devices can be retrieved.