

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: Statement of Ministerial Standards

Senator: Rhiannon, Lee

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Question:

Senator RHIANNON: To ask about the previous government: Labor ministers like Martin Ferguson moved directly from the cabinet to work for APPEA as chair of their advisory board just a month after the 2013 election. Given that Mr Abbott brought in the Statement of ministerial standards in 2013, was it the policy of the government to decline meetings with former ministers who had not observed the cooling-off period?

Ms Kelly: I cannot answer that question, but I am happy to take it on notice.

Answer:

The Statement of Ministerial Standards was tabled by the Acting Prime Minister on 11 December 2013.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is not in a position to answer a question about the practice across government regarding meeting former Ministers. PM&C notes, however, clause 2.24 in the Statement of Ministerial Standards referred to an eighteen month period where former ministers will not meet with members of the public service on any matters on which they have had official dealings as a Minister in their last eighteen months in office.