

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: Lobbyist Register

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

Question reference number: 13

Type of question: FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 52

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

Number of pages: 1.

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: One of Mr Baldwin's clients—this is entered in the lobbyist register list—is Nino Lani, which is a forestry firm that has dealings with environmental regulators; for example, in 2012 Nino Lani was fined \$53,000 by environmental regulators for illegal land clearing in New South Wales. Is the department aware that Mr Baldwin is lobbying on behalf of clients who do business in the environment portfolio?

Ms Kelly: The department would only be aware of the clients as notified by the registered lobbyist in accordance with the Lobbying Code of Conduct. To that extent the department is aware and not beyond that.

Senator McALLISTER: Isn't that a clear breach though of clause 7.1 in the Lobbying Code of Conduct?

Ms Kelly: Senator McAllister, I do not know the full circumstances of the matter that you are referring to. I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: That matter has not been referred to you by the Prime Minister for your advice?

Ms Kelly: Not that I am aware of, but again I will confirm that.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is aware that Nino Lani is listed as a client on the Australian Government Lobbyists Register. The Lobbying Code of Conduct does not require lobbyists to provide details of the business affairs of their clients.

On 8 September 2016, Mr Baldwin provided written assurance he had read, understood and will comply with requirements of the Lobbying Code.

No, the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, has not referred this matter to PM&C for advice.