

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: Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 18

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Perhaps I could ask about conflicts of interest. Obviously the Cabinet Handbook identifies a process by which ministers declare private interests—paragraphs 49, 50 and 51. Who keeps a record of the declarations? Is that PM&C?

Ms Kelly: The cabinet secretary, which is PM&C, yes.

Senator WONG: How many occasions in the last 12 months has there been such a declaration?

Ms Kelly: Unless Mr Taloni is able to answer that question, as the acting head of the cabinet division, I will have to take that on notice.

Mr Taloni: I do not have that information to hand. I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The confidentiality of Cabinet deliberations, including the declaration of private interests by Ministers, is the foundation for the proper functioning of the Cabinet process. It is therefore not appropriate to reveal what matters may have been considered by the Cabinet.