

**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:** 21

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 55

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: It has also been reported publicly that a member of Senator Brandis's family was represented by Mr Tavoularis. Was the department aware of this prior to its being made public?

Mr Taloni: I would have to check that as well.

Senator WONG: Was any advice provided as to whether it was a conflict of interest?

Mr Taloni: I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The confidentiality of Cabinet deliberations, including the provision of advice on the 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.