

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: FOI Request – Prime Ministers Preferences

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 32

Type of question: FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 65

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: I had observed that what was released has all the detail about the Prime Minister's preferences for manuals, breakfasts, light refreshment, drinks, dislikes and allergies redacted.

Mr Arnaudo: That would be a matter for the Department of Defence. They were the ultimate decision maker in relation to that request. It was a request to the Department of Defence.

Senator WONG: Does it reflect the Prime Minister's views?

Mr Arnaudo: My understanding is that we communicated the views of the Prime Minister's office back to the Department of Defence and it was ultimately a matter for the Department of Defence to make the decision.

Senator WONG: How did you communicate them and by whom?

Mr Arnaudo: It was probably by email, Senator.

Senator WONG: By whom?

Mr Arnaudo: By the department on behalf of—

Senator WONG: I know. Who? Was it you or one of your staff who emailed?

Mr Arnaudo: It would probably have been a member of my staff. This was in December last year.

Senator WONG: I would like a copy of the email, please.

Mr Arnaudo: I do not have it with me, Senator. I would have to take it on notice.

Answer:

A copy of the email is attached. Consistent with long standing practice, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has redacted the names and contact details of non-SES officers.

Arnaudo, Peter

From: FOI
Sent: Wednesday, 9 December 2015 1:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: FOI
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information (FOI) request No: 143/15/16 -consultation under section 27A of the FOI Act [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Reference: C15/141

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for providing the Office of the Prime Minister with an opportunity to comment on the document in regarding the catering profile for the Prime Minister and his spouse and for the extension of time.

The Prime Minister's Office has indicated that exemptions relating to section 37(1)(c) and 47F should be applied to the document in full. Section 37(1)(c) applies specifically to any allergies identified in the document and section 47F to the document in full based on the personal preferences of the Prime Minister and his spouse—this information is not publically accessible/readily available information. We note third party review rights would exist on this document should the decision maker decide to release the document.

Please note that if Defence is not include to accept the Prime Minister's Office suggestions for exemption outlined above, we would appreciate you letting us know in sufficient time before the decision is finalised so that we have an opportunity to discuss the matter further with you .

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact.

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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