

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: Mr Rudd - Secretary General UN Mr Rudd - Secretary General UN

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 35

Type of question: FPA Monday 17 October 2016, Page 69

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator WONG: Did the department also receive a copy of the letter from Mr Rudd to Turnbull on 1 May?

Mr McKinnon: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think so, but I would like to be sure.

Senator WONG: It refers to a range of discussions by text and by phone over six months on the matter of Mr Rudd's candidacy for the position of UN S-G. This is with Mr Turnbull. Was the department aware of any of these discussions in the six months between approximately late 2015 and April 2016?

Mr McKinnon: I would like to take that on notice, because there was a range of media reporting and I am not sure of my chronology as to when that reporting was against what we had at what time.

Senator WONG: Okay. You are entitled to take it on notice, but can I ask the question this way and see if it assists. Apart from the letter of 4 April that you have already given evidence about, did the department have any knowledge of other communications between Mr Rudd and Mr Turnbull about this matter?

Mr McKinnon: I am confident that I did not. I would like to check within my group. Had we received something I expect I would have been made aware of it. So, I think the answer is no, but I would like to confirm that.

Senator WONG: Is Prime Minister and Cabinet aware of any message from the Prime Minister to Mr Rudd stating that he and Ms Bishop were at one in supporting Mr Rudd's candidacy?

Mr McKinnon: I would like to take that on notice as well.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) did not receive a copy of the letter from Mr Rudd to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.

PM&C was not aware of any discussions in the six month between late 2015 and April 2016.

PM&C had no knowledge of any other communications between Mr Rudd and the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.

PM&C is not aware of any message from the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, to Mr Rudd.