

**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:** Transformation of DTO

**Senator:** McAllister, Jenny

**Question reference number:** 70

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 135

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator McALLISTER: You mentioned that it had been under discussion with officers from the DTO since the return of the government. Prior to the previous parliament being dissolved, had it been under discussion with others within government? When did these discussions start?

Dr Kennedy: I was not part of those discussions at that stage, so I am not aware of that. I would have to take that part on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: Is it your evidence that this whole thing commenced since the re-election of the government, or is it your understanding that there were some discussions about a change of this kind prior to the election?

Dr Kennedy: It is my evidence that I have been part of discussions around these issues since the government was returned—

Senator McALLISTER: But did your department not brief you?

Dr Kennedy: And prior to us going into the caretaker period, the DTO was going about its work. Through the caretaker period, of course, the public service prepared advice for the return of the government. When the government was returned we began discussions about what would be the subsequent phases of the Digital Transformation Office and these are the sorts of issues that came up in those discussions.

Senator McALLISTER: All right. I would like you to take that on notice, because I am interested to understand whether this restructure was initiated prior to or after the election.

**Answer:**

Discussions within the public service about next steps for the digital transformation agenda were initiated as part of the incoming Government briefing process in mid-2016.