



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON

Ms Lyn Beverley  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

I refer to my letter dated 17 November 2016 concerning clarifications to the record in relation to evidence provided at the Supplementary Estimates hearing on 17 October 2016 regarding the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) portfolio.

In that letter, I provided further information about the first PM&C record located relating to the installation of a luggage lift at The Lodge following inquiries initiated by Ms Kelly at the conclusion of the Supplementary Estimates hearing. Following dispatch of the letter, this issue received media attention. As a result of that media attention, a PM&C officer who had been involved in the project during the relevant period provided information about a reference to the installation of a service lift in the Project Steering Committee minutes of 23 February 2012. This information has now been located in the PM&C's records.

The relevant part of the minutes provides:

*JF noted that the Project may want to consider a service lift for heavy items that need to be transported to upper levels of the house.*

Following location of this information, further inquiries were made to seek to confirm the date of the earliest discussions about the refurbishment, given Ms Kelly's evidence that *The luggage lift was part of the earliest discussions about the refurbishment in 2010*. The Lodge was transferred to the Department of Finance in September 2010, a building condition report was completed and the refurbishment project was announced by the then Special Minister of State on 11 October 2011. Given this timeline and the other information, it would appear that the earliest conversations about the refurbishment occurred in late 2011 but that the luggage or service lift was not raised until shortly before 23 February 2012.

On a separate matter, Dr David Gruen, Deputy Secretary, Economic would like to correct his evidence on 17 October 2016. At page 81 of the Hansard Senator Wong asked Dr Gruen if he had "seen a copy of the coalition agreement". Dr Gruen responded "I do not think so". Senator Wong then asked "Do you know in relation to what issues the fiscal branch was asked for advice?". Dr Gruen answered that he would have to take that on notice.

On further reflection, Dr Gruen recalls that he saw a copy of the letter from Mr Truss to Mr Turnbull shortly before question time on 15 September 2015. He did not retain a copy.

Yours sincerely

Brendan MacDowell  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch

15 February 2017