

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW1058_10

Senator Abetz asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 144 and 145.

Question

NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO FAIR WORK AUSTRALIA

Senator ABETZ—.....Did the department notify the shadow minister of the intended appointments or was it the Deputy Prime Minister's office who notified the shadow?
Mr Kovacic—It was the Deputy Prime Minister's office. It was— Senator
ABETZ—And when did she notify the shadow? Mr Kovacic—There was a letter faxed from the Deputy Prime Minister's chief of staff on 7 December 2009. Senator
ABETZ—At what time? Mr Kovacic—I am sorry, I do not know the precise times.
Senator ABETZ—Could you please take that on notice? Mr Kovacic—Certainly.
Senator ABETZ—Can I say: we do not make hollow and sham promises, and when you find out the timetable of when the letter was faxed and the time by which a response had to be back into the Deputy Prime Minister's office, when that comes back on the record with the answers on notice, I think you will find—

Answer

A copy of the letter from the Deputy Prime Minister's Chief of Staff to the Shadow Minister was sent via email at 16.01 pm on 7 December 2009. The letter sought comments by 12.00 noon on 8 December 2009. The timeframe for the consultation was shortened by the late passage of the Fair Work Amendment (State Referrals and Other Measures) Bill 2009 and the limited time available to allow consideration of the proposed appointments by Cabinet on 8 December 2009 and the Executive Council on 10 December 2009 later rescheduled to 14 December 2009 in time for commencement of the Fair Work system on 1 January 2010.