

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Appointment of Mr Bruce Wolpe

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 56

Type of Question: FPA, P87, 13 February

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: If I could move now to the appointment of Mr Bruce Wolpe as a business liaison adviser to the Prime Minister. Was the department consulted about that appointment or was it just done out of the PMO?

Ms Leon: I am ascertaining whether I have any briefing on that, Senator.

Senator Chris Evans: This is a recent appointment, Senator, is it?

Senator RYAN: Yes, I think it was earlier this year.

Dr de Brouwer: We will check, but our understanding is that there was no consultation with the department.

Answer: Mr Wolpe was appointed to the Prime Minister's personal staff under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act. Consistent with usual practice the department was not consulted.