

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Renewable Energy Target Review

Senator: Senator Scott Ludlam

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Question:

Senator LUDLAM: How many candidates did you assess for the position of chair?

Mr Hazlehurst: In the normal way of these things, a range of names were provided to the government.

Senator LUDLAM: How big was the range?

Senator MILNE: By whom?

Mr Hazlehurst: I do not know. I will take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: Who provided the list of candidates initially?

Mr Hazlehurst: Again, in the normal way of these things, the relevant department. In this case, it was the Prime Minister's department in consultation with the industry department and the environment department that came up with a list of names, and those were provided to the Prime Minister and relevant ministers.

Senator LUDLAM: For how many of those did you actually conduct some kind of due diligence or assessment? If you do not want to call it an interview, that is fine. How many people did you actively assess for the position of chair?

Mr Hazlehurst: The due diligence process is a process that is undertaken once the government has made an indicative decision about the proposed appointees. That is then a process of checking for conflicts of interest et cetera.

Senator LUDLAM: As far as the position of chair goes, was Mr Warburton the only person that you considered and conducted this test for? Or were there are a few?

Mr Hazlehurst: I think you are perhaps misunderstanding what I am saying. The process of checking for conflicts of interest, and other issues to do with the suitability of a person that relate to things like criminal convictions and things like that, only occurs in respect of the shortlist of people who are actually being considered by the government for appointment.

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Senator LUDLAM: Maybe that is what I am missing. How big was your shortlist for consideration for the position of chair? Was it a shortlist of one, or were there more people on it?

Mr Hazlehurst: I think I will have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet identified several possible candidates for the position of Chair of the Renewable Energy Target Review for the Government's consideration. All appointments are decisions for the Government.