

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 the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: No, I am not actually asking about the terms. I am not asking about how much, I am asking about the legal basis of this engagement. The Commonwealth procurement rules set out a range of categories, and I am just trying to ascertain which one is being used for the purposes of this engagement.

Senator ABETZ: Well, remuneration will be consistent with the government's policy on review panels.

Senator WONG: No, I am not asking about terms. Was there a limited tender?

Ms Cross: Senator, we will check for you, but I think it was more an appropriate process than a procurement. What I can say is that the process is consistent with the way similar panels have been appointed in the past.

Senator WONG: Perhaps after the break you can come back and advise me.

Ms Cross: I do not think it was a procurement, but we will check that for you.

Senator ABETZ: These usually are not by procurement.

Senator WONG: Well, that is not actually correct.

Senator ABETZ: Yes, it is.

Senator WONG: It is not. Perhaps after the break you can come back and advise me about the basis of engagement. I am happy for you to come back on it; that is fine. We will be back after dinner.

Mr Hazlehurst: Sure, we will do that.

Answer:

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, Minister for Industry, and the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, made the appointments under their executive power as ministers. As such, the Commonwealth Procurement Rules do not apply (Section 2.9(h) of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules refers).