

**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:** Government Staffing Committee

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 17

**Type of Question:** FPA, Monday 24 February 2014, page 93&93

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator WONG: After the committee makes a recommendation, how is that communicated to the Prime Minister?

Senator Abetz: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: You do not know?

Senator Abetz: No, I do not know. Ultimately, as the Prime Minister's answer says, the buck stops with him in relation to that.

Senator WONG: That is not an answer to the question I just asked.

Senator Abetz: I do not know how it is communicated, whether it is verbally or in writing, but I will take it on notice.

Senator WONG: How is the Prime Minister's decision then communicated to the relevant minister?

Senator Abetz: Usually by a representative of the Government Staff Committee. I will correct the record if I am wrong on this, but I would imagine it is usually by the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff.

Senator WONG: Would that be done in writing or verbally?

Senator Abetz: Once again, I will have to take it on notice. But when things are finalised I understand the process is in writing.

Senator WONG: Is that from the Prime Minister or from the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff?

Senator Abetz: It is from the Chief of Staff or somebody else from the Government Staff Committee. Otherwise, as you might imagine, the Prime Minister would be signing a lot of letters.

Senator WONG: Are you able to tell us on what date the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff wrote to Senator Nash approving Mr Furnival's appointment?

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Senator Abetz: No, I cannot. I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Please refer to evidence provided at the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee Additional Estimates hearings on 25 February 2014.