

**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:** Mr Alistair Furnival

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 22

**Type of Question:** FPA, Monday 24 February 2014, page 99

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator WONG: The Prime Minister then goes on to say:

... the gentleman in question was required to divest himself of an interest ... My understanding is that he was dilatory in doing that.

By when was Mr Furnival required to divest himself?

Senator ABETZ: That detail I don't know. I will take that on notice, but I would suggest to you that you can actually ask these questions of the minister who is actually responsible for—

Senator WONG: No. The Prime Minister is responsible for the statement of standards. The Prime Minister is responsible for the ministerial statement of standards. It is the Prime Minister's statement of standards for ministerial staff that we are discussing. I am asking you—

Senator ABETZ: But like it happened under your—

Senator WONG: I haven't finished.

Senator ABETZ: You interrupted me.

Senator WONG: I let you go on at length prior to the break. I am asking you questions about what the Prime Minister has said about the enforcement of his standards. Your inability to answer the question really throws into doubt the veracity of the Prime Minister's statement today. Surely the Prime Minister must have informed himself about these very matters for him to have told the House of Representatives that today. So why are you unable to answer very simple questions about what the arrangements were, when the requirements were put in place, when he required to divest himself of interest and what the Prime Minister knew and when?

Senator BERNARDI: The minister has already answered those questions by taking them on notice.

**Answer:**

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See PM19.