

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: Royal Commission - Cabinet documents

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 4

Type of Question: FPA, Monday 24 February 2014, page 71

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator ABETZ: And as I understand it—and I will correct the record if I am wrong—the Commonwealth complied with that request. Did we seek an extension or not?

Ms Kelly: No. Production continued over a number of days following the 31st. But, yes, the department has had written advice from the Australian Government Solicitor that the documents have been provided to the royal commission, but we have not communicated directly with the royal commission itself.

Senator LUDWIG: Is that advice available from the Australian Government Solicitor—that they have been communicated to the royal commission? I take it it is just an email—

Ms Kelly: I would have to take that on notice. That may well be the subject of—

Senator Abetz: Yes, let us take it on notice.

Senator LUDWIG: I am happy for you to take it on notice. I do not want to breach any confidentiality.

Answer:

The relevant advice is contained in the Australian Government Solicitor's letter to the Home Insulation Program Royal Commission tabled by the Attorney-General on 24 February 2014 at the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee estimates hearing.