

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 Barry O'Sullivan

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 45

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. I refer to Question on Notice 55 to the department concerning now-Senator Mr Barry O'Sullivan. You have answered that "Mr Barry O'Sullivan is not currently engaged by the Department". Was Mr O'Sullivan involved in any formal or informal manner in the development of the Agriculture White Paper before being sworn in by the Australian Senate as a Senator?
2. Did Mr O'Sullivan meet with the Prime Minister or the Minister before being sworn in as a Senator for Queensland to discuss the Agriculture White Paper?
3. Did Mr O'Sullivan provide or was provided with any documentation from the department concerning the Agriculture White paper?
4. Did Mr O'Sullivan have any contact with the department at all, concerning the White Paper – including, but not limited to, phone calls or emails, concerning the white paper and any travel or meetings Mr O'Sullivan held before being appointed as a Queensland Senator?
5. Did the department provide any travel support to Mr O'Sullivan, including but not limited to the provision of travel briefs through the office of the Minister or directly to Mr O'Sullivan; the arranging meetings for Mr O'Sullivan; or any other form of support?

Answer:

1. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) did not engage Mr Barry O'Sullivan in any formal or informal way in the development of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper prior to his being sworn in as a Senator.
2. PM&C is not aware of any meeting between Mr Barry O'Sullivan and the Prime Minister to discuss the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

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Questions relating to the Minister for Agriculture should be directed to the Minister or the Department of Agriculture.

3. No.
4. PM&C has no record of contact with Mr Barry O'Sullivan prior to his being sworn in as a Senator.
5. No.