

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Members and Staff of the Cabinet Office Policy Committee

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0037

Type of question: Written, 22 May 2020

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2pm, Friday 5 June 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to the Cabinet Office Policy Committee:

- a. Can current members of the committee be provided together with their date/s of appointment.
- b. Is the Cabinet Secretary a political staffer employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 and not the Public Service Act 1999.
- c. What role has the Cabinet Secretary performed in relation to the National Cabinet.

Answer:

- a) The Prime Minister chairs the Cabinet Office Policy Committee. Other participants attend as appropriate.
- b) The Department of Finance has advised that the Cabinet Secretary is employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, as were a number of his predecessors.
- c) The role of the Cabinet Secretary is set out in the Cabinet Handbook.