

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15**

**Finance Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Delay in moving-in date for the Minister for Agriculture's electorate office

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** F26

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 103-104, 24 February 2015

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 April 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator LUDWIG:** What I am trying to ascertain is that there was a delay, as I understand it. There may not have been, but that is what I am trying to ascertain. If I had the expected completion date and then the move-in date, then I could see if there was a delay.

...

**Ms Halton:** We will give you something on notice, Senator.

**Senator LUDWIG:** Do you have that at hand?

**Ms Halton:** No, but we are happy to give you something in writing.

...

**Senator Ronaldson:** The secretary took on notice your question about the reason for the delays. Anyway, let's move on.

**Ms Halton:** Senator, all I can say to you is that it did not meet my standard for timeliness. That is why I became aware of it. The specifics beyond that we will take on notice.

**Senator LUDWIG:** In that, please do a chronology of the issues that the department had to respond to. I understand the costs will be reflected in the six months, so I am not interested in costs. It is only a chronology—not so much of all of the correspondence, but by each issue that arose between the landlord and the prospective tenant. I just wanted to be clear about what I am seeking so I do not have to come back to it again in June.

**Ms Halton:** Yes.

**Answer:**

Detailed designs for Minister Joyce's Armidale property were completed in October 2014. Construction of the office proceeded according to schedule, with practical completion achieved in February 2015. Finance is unaware of any issues between the landlord and the Minister for Agriculture during the lease negotiation or the building works.