

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
— Supplementary Additional Budget Estimates Hearing— 8 February
2016**

Answers to Questions on Notice

President of the Senate

Topic: **Remuneration Tribunal**

Hansard Reference **p 75; 8 February 2016**

Senator McALLISTER: Before we finish on that, under the current arrangements you indicated there is an engagement between the presiding officers and the Remuneration Tribunal before setting salaries for individual officers. That is my understanding and is that correct?

The President: For the four officers of the parliament, which are the two secretaries of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services and the Parliamentary Budget Officer, who has a slightly different—I am corrected: the PBO is directly under the Remuneration Tribunal because he is a different statutory office holder. He is removed completely from the parliament.

Senator McALLISTER: How does the nature of the engagement typically take place in your experience?

The President: By formal communication.

Senator McALLISTER: It is formal? It is an exchange of letters—

The President: Yes.

Senator McALLISTER: to say that the presiding officer might make a proposition about the nature of the appointment, length of tenure, salary—

The President: Correct.

Senator McALLISTER: Or just salary?

The President: Let me take that on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: I think it would be helpful to understand what issues are considered in that exchange. It is simply seeking guidance? There is no concurrence requirement from the Remuneration Tribunal?

The President: Again, let me take that on notice and I will confirm that with you.

Answer

The determinations of remuneration and conditions of service for the following offices - the Clerks, the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services and the Parliamentary Librarian - fall within the jurisdiction of the Presiding Officers in accordance with s. 63 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999* (the Act). S.63(2) of the Act requires the Presiding Officers to seek and take into account the advice of the Remuneration Tribunal when making determinations. This is undertaken formally in writing.

Decisions about appointment and length of tenure are set out separately in the Act.