

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates – February 2016
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Resignation of Ministers

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: 2

Type of Question: Hearing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

Number of Pages: 1

Mr Fraser: And sometimes by the Governor-General. Ministers write directly to the Governor-General, after all they are his ministers. He appoints the ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Senator WONG: Right. And no resignation letters were received in relation to—

Mr Fraser: I am very happy to look at that, but not to my knowledge.

Senator WONG: Let's go back, Mr Fraser. You may want to take this on notice because your answer was different to my recollection or my understanding of the procedure, and I might be wrong. I put to you that it is usual for ministers who depart the ministry as a result of a reshuffle to submit letters of resignation, either to the Prime Minister or, you have indicated today, on occasion to the Governor-General. I am putting that to you. You need to either say 'yes', 'no' or 'take it on notice'.

Mr Fraser: I am very happy to take on notice your question.

Answer:

No letters of resignation were received by the Governor-General from ministers that were revoked as part of the reshuffle of 21 September 2015.