

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Coalition Document

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 224

Type of question: 22 February 2016, Pages 12,13 & 14

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 September 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Ms E Kelly: The letter I have seen was from Mr Turnbull to Mr Truss.

Senator WONG: The other way round, sorry. It went to issues such as the number of cabinet positions?

Ms E Kelly: I think on the previous occasion that you asked these questions, Senator Wong, Senator Brandis indicated that that was a political document in nature and was not a departmental document.

Senator WONG: But you have seen it. I am asking what you saw.

Ms E Kelly: I think in relation to the content of the document Senator Brandis indicated that it was a political document. My recollection is that he took the production of that document on notice. That is probably where the matter is currently resting.

...

Senator WONG: Did anyone from the department have any role in advising as to the content of the letter, prior to it being sent, or after?

Senator McGrath: I think I will take that on notice.

...

Senator WONG: Who drafted the letter then?

Senator McGrath: It is the letter between the leaders of two political parties.

Senator WONG: I am asking you who drafted the letter.

Senator McGrath: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not draft the letter.