

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 Agreement

Senator: Wong, Penny

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Question:

Senator WONG: When PM&C answered 'yes' to my question 108—when I asked, 'Has PM&C seen the coalition agreement? If so, on what date?' Can someone please tell me what document they were referencing—or they understood to be referencing—when they answered?

Ms E Kelly: My understanding is that is the letter, but I will confirm that, Senator Wong because, as I said, I was not in the country at that time.

...

Senator WONG: Thank you. I just want to know—if it is Ms Lynch—who showed it to her and what were the circumstances and why was she appraising herself off the document?

Ms E Kelly: I can get that information for you over the break, Senator Wong.

Answer:

Ms Lynch was given a copy of a letter between the then Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Warren Truss and the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, sometime on 15 September, after Mr Turnbull was sworn in as Prime Minister. Ms Lynch's recollection is that it was provided to her by an officer of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet who had been assisting in Mr Turnbull's office with the transition.