

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Former Minister Robert

**Senator:** Kitching, Kimberley

**Question reference number:** 20

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 27 February 2017, pages 65 & 66

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator KITCHING: That is very interesting because I was actually going to draw your attention to the Stuart Robert precedent, where Dr Parkinson's investigation there was released. I will also draw your attention, Ms Kelly, to a statement made by Sussan Ley: 'I do not object to the material that I have provided being made public'. So she is the subject of the investigation and has said that she does not mind. Then there is the example of Stuart Robert and that precedent where—I think it was on 12 February 2016, the Prime Minister did release the advice. What I am asking is: why is there a difference in treatment? And why is the Prime Minister refusing to release Dr Parkinson's report into Sussan Ley, when he did it to a former minister.

Senator Brandis: I will take that on notice.

Senator KITCHING: Thank you.

Senator Brandis: I am not familiar with the reasons. I am sorry; I am corrected by Ms Kelly: apparently the assertion you have made about Mr Robert is not true.

Ms Kelly: Senator Kitching, I am not aware that any advice prepared for the Governance Committee of Cabinet, as was the case in relation to former Minister Robert, has ever been released.

**Answer:**

Neither the advice that the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, received from the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM, in relation to the Hon Stuart Robert MP under the *Statement of Ministerial Standards* nor the advice in relation to the Hon Sussan Ley MP has been released by the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP. In both cases, the advice was prepared for the Governance Committee of the Cabinet. The practice has been not to release advice of that kind.