

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 Ley

Senator: Kitching, Kimberley & Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 21

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Question:

Senator Brandis: The conclusions were that—all that that press release from which you have quoted apparently says is that, for the reasons Dr Parkinson considered, Mr Robert should stand down. So it is not a valid comparison. And, as Senator McKenzie has helpfully intervened to point out, the practice of not releasing these reports has been the custom and practice of governments over the years from both sides of politics.

Senator KITCHING: I would ask you, Senator Brandis, to take on notice—

Senator Brandis: I will take it on notice.

Senator KITCHING: Take on notice, please, why Dr Parkinson's conclusions in relation to former disgraced Minister Sussan Ley cannot be released as they were in relation to former Minister Robert.

Senator Brandis: Well, they were not. You are asking me to take on notice—

Senator KITCHING: I am asking you—

Senator Brandis: A question which, from your own lips, is obviously based on a false premise—

Senator KITCHING: I would like to know the conclusions—

Senator Brandis: Nevertheless, I will take on notice the question: the reasons why the Parkinson report in relation to Ms Ley was not released.

Senator KITCHING: Thank you.

Answer:

The advice 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, under the *Statement of Ministerial Standards* in relation to the Hon Sussan Ley MP was prepared for the Governance Committee of the Cabinet. The practice has been not to release advice of that kind.