

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: Prime Minister Abe visit – 14 January 2017

Senator: Kitching, Kimberley

Question reference number: 30

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

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Question:

Senator KITCHING: When did DPMC finalise the attendees on the Australian side of Prime Minister Abe's visit?

Mr McKinnon: We will have to take that on notice.

Senator KITCHING: When was foreign minister Bishop first invited to attend?

Mr McKinnon: Again, I would have to take that one on notice.

Senator KITCHING: Did the Japanese side request that Minister Bishop join the meetings? If so, when? And at what stage did the Japanese side have confirmation that Minister Bishop would be joining the Prime Minister in Sydney on 14 January?

Mr McKinnon: I will take all of those on notice.

Senator KITCHING: And, since the 2013 election, on how many occasions has the foreign minister been part of the Australian delegation hosting a foreign head of government outside of Canberra where the counterpart minister is not part of the foreign delegation? Is it normal practice or occasionally the case, or on how many occasions has this occurred? And what was Minister Bishop's role on 14 January in the meetings with Prime Minister Abe?

Mr McKinnon: Again, on that one it will require a quite significant amount of work to find out how many occasions and so forth.

Answer:

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, was invited on 12 January 2017 to attend the Reception in honour of His Excellency Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Mrs Akie Abe at Kirribilli House.

The make-up of participant lists is a matter for the Prime Minister's Office and is considered on a case by case basis. Information detailing the participants for every meeting is not stored in a fashion that can be easily collated. To collate this information would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.