

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: FOI –messaging apps

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 38

Type of question: FPA Monday 27 February 2017, page 80

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Wickr—there was an exchange which has been reported between the Prime Minister and former Prime Minister Rudd. It is the subject of an FOI application and I am asking whether or not that FOI application has been determined and whether the messages have been provided.

Mr Arnaudo: I am not aware of a request of that nature to the department, but I am happy to take it on notice. It might have been a request to the Prime Minister's office directly.

Senator WONG: That is not the information that I have, but maybe you could clarify that.

Mr Arnaudo: We provide some administrative support to the Prime Minister's office in responding to FOI requests that are made to that office. I am not aware of a request regarding that term. I might have to take on notice the actual time frames for that request.

Answer:

There were two Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made in July 2016 to the Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) relating to Wickr messages between the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, and former Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd. In February 2017, the FOI applicants were notified that no documents were identified in relation to Wickr messages.

Refer to response to PM39 Additional Estimates 2016-17, for information relating to the administrative support provided to the PMO relating to FOI Requests.