

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: Messaging Apps

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 40

Type of question: FPA Monday 27 February 2017, page 82

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Ms E Kelly: I think Mr Arnaudo said that, in the course of processing this advice, he cannot recall whether that is the case. We will certainly take on notice your question and make inquiries to see whether that advice has been provided through any other channels.

Senator WONG: Does anybody tell ministers and their staff what they need to keep on either messaging apps or by text messages, or not?

Ms E Kelly: As I said, we will take that on notice and make those inquiries.

Senator WONG: Thank you for doing so, but you would agree that PM&C does not tell them that.

Ms E Kelly: Not that I am aware of but, as a said, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided advice to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, in October 2015 (copy tabled at Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015-16 (October 2015)), outlining the responsibilities each Minister and their office has associated with the use of non-official communication systems to convey official information and their responsibilities in relation the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Archives Act 1983*.