

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: Ministerial Code of Conduct

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 58

Type of question: FPA Monday 27 February 2017, page 108

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator WONG: Ms Kelly, if you are not able to assist me, can I be quite clear about what I want. Firstly: on how many occasions since Mr Turnbull became Prime Minister has he sought and obtained approval under the ministerial code from the secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet, as is described in his statement to the House on 14 October 2015?

Ms E Kelly: I can certainly take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Secondly, I would like to know: is it the Prime Minister's practice, each time his investments change, to confirm with the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet that those investments are still or remain consistent with the ministerial code?

Ms E Kelly: Yes.

Senator WONG: Thirdly: if not, why not?

Ms E Kelly: Yes, I can take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Also, given that there seems to be some confusion or lack of clarity about how this practice occurs, I also want to know how it happens. I want to understand the process by which such approval, to use the Prime Minister's words, is sought and provided.

Ms E Kelly: Yes, I can take that on notice.

Answer:

The Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, stated in the House of Representatives on 23 November 2016 that his investments are managed by an external adviser and are invested almost entirely in large managed funds that have a wide range of investments. The allocation of the funds is a matter for his adviser.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, sought advice from the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2015 after becoming Prime Minister and again in 2016 after the election.

There is no standard process for the seeking of such advice and it is a matter between the Prime Minister and the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.