

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: Meetings with the Assistant Minister and the former DTA CEO

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

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Question:

Senator McALLISTER: Dr Kennedy, what were the arrangements for meetings between the assistant minister and the former CEO of the Digital Transformation Office?

Dr Kennedy: My understanding was that the assistant minister met regularly with the former CEO, Mr Shetler.

Senator McALLISTER: When you say 'regularly', what do you understand by that?

Dr Kennedy: I actually do not know their precise calendar, but I can provide you with that general feedback that they met regularly.

Senator McALLISTER: So that might be monthly?

Dr Kennedy: I think it would be more than monthly, but I cannot tell you whether they had a scheduled weekly meeting in the manner that Ms O'Loughlin just outlined. But they did meet regularly.

Senator McALLISTER: I would appreciate it if you would answer my question on notice. I am interested to understand what that relationship was like because there has been some quite public commentary about Mr Shetler's departure. I am interested to understand what the nature of his relationship was within the government...

Answer:

Records indicate that there were 14 meetings in total between the CEO of the DTO and the Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation between 25 February 2016 and 25 October 2016. These were a mix of one-to-one meetings and those attended by other DTO senior executives.