

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

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's Chief of Staff

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 155

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Question:

Senator WONG: Okay. In the same article Mr Shanahan says that the Prime Minister refused to accept the resignation of his chief of staff. As the Minister representing the Prime Minister, could you indicate to the committee when Ms Credlin offered her resignation and why the Prime Minister refused to accept it.

Senator Cormann: I am not aware of the circumstances of that you refer to. Indeed, I am not aware of whether there has been an offer of resignation, so I would have to take any questions in relation to these matters on notice.

Answer:

It is common and longstanding practice under successive governments not to provide a running commentary of staffing matters or discussions with staff that may or may not have occurred.