

**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:** Destroyer project

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 206

**Type of question:** 26 May 2015 p. 35

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 18 June 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: We will summarise. Was any member of government or their staff authorised to provide information about the report that the National Security Committee had considered to Mr Sheridan? Were you aware at any point prior to reading the report that that information had been provided? Was any member of your staff aware of or involved in the provision of that information?

Senator Cormann: I will take those questions on notice. Can I just reconfirm again that obviously I was aware of the information that was to be made public, and, of course, information was made public in the form of a joint media release between the Minister for Defence and me.

**Answer:**

Ministers and their staff are required to comply with the Statement of Ministerial Standards and the Statement of Standards for Ministerial Staff respectively.

It is longstanding practice of successive governments not to comment on matters that may or may not be considered by Cabinet and Cabinet committees.