

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 visit to New York – September 2014 – accommodation

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Thank you. I am aware that we have a mission in New York. In fact, ministers have occasionally stayed there. It is quite a large accommodation and facility. Can you tell me why the Prime Minister needed a temporary office when we have facilities there?

Ms Kelly: I understand that this is the practice not just for this government. It has long been the practice that, when the Prime Minister travels, the Prime Minister has an office and support provided in the hotel in which the Prime Minister is staying, so it was a continuation of that practice. As to—

Senator WONG: Sorry, I should say that I have mixed up the accommodation with the mission. We have both.

Ms Kelly: As to the particular forms of support that are provided to the accommodation and whether they are available at the mission, I would have to take that on notice and check on whether the particular forms of support that were provided by the staff would be available at the mission.

Answer:

As Ms Kelly advised, the mission could provide some support but not the same support as is provided by the department to the Prime Minister.

It is long-standing practice across successive governments for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to establish a temporary office at the hotel in which the Prime Minister is staying during a visit. As the office must be accessible at all times throughout the visit, it is not practical for it to be located away from where the travelling party are accommodated.