

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Lease and rental of building or property

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 150

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

With reference to contract notice CN1886391 published on AusTender:

Does this contract for the “lease and rental of a building or property” for the period 2 September 2013 to 1 September 2014 and valued at \$156,428.40 relate to the lease of accommodation for the Prime Minister?

Was the lease for the property signed on 31 August 2013?

Why was the contract notice not published until 18 November 2013?

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
2. The lease was signed on 28 August 2013 prior to the election of the Hon Tony Abbott MP as Prime Minister. As Leader of the Opposition, Mr Abbott was not asked for his views on the Department entering into the lease. After the election, the Prime Minister made it clear he did not support the lease of the property. He made alternative arrangements to stay at the Australian Federal Police College when in Canberra at a cost of \$110 per night.
3. Publication was delayed pending legal advice.