

Supplementary Estimates Question on notice (Senator Wong)

Department of Parliamentary Services

Structural Review of the Department of Parliamentary Services (Baxter Review)

1. Noting the statement that the presiding officers “expect to receive the Commissioner’s report in October 2015”, have the presiding officers received the report and if not, what is the current timeline?
2. Will the new secretary be appointed before the review is handed down, or will the presiding officers wait in order to take into account the findings of the review?

Answer:

1. At the request of the Presiding Officers, the Parliamentary Service Commissioner is undertaking a review of the Department of Parliamentary Services under section 40(1)(b) of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*. The Commissioner commenced the review on 20 August 2015 and engaged Mr Ken Baxter to assist him in the conduct of the review. The Commissioner is now expected to report to the Presiding Officers in November 2015.
2. The announcement of an appointment to fill the vacancy of Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services, was made on Wednesday 4 November 2015 and the new Secretary will commence on 14 December 2015. The incoming Secretary is aware of the review and that the Commissioner’s report will be submitted prior to his commencement as Secretary. The Presiding Officers will consider the Commissioner’s report when it is received and will consult with Senators and Members, the new Secretary and the parliamentary departments on the recommendations.

Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry, President of the Senate
16 November 2014