

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2015**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary Service Commissioner**

Topic: **Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services**

Question: **76**

Written **Senator Wong**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015**

1. Is it correct that the Parliamentary Services Commissioner must provide a report about the vacancy in the position of Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services to the presiding officers under section 59(2) of the Parliamentary Service Act?
2. Is this a different report a different report from that which was provided to the presiding officers as part of the process to terminate the former secretary (Ms Carol Mills)?
3. Has the report about the vacancy been completed?
4. If not, when can it be expected?
5. Is a copy made public and if it has not been made public, can it be?
6. What is the role of the Parliamentary Service Commissioner in the process to select a new secretary?

**Answer**

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Not applicable.
5. A copy has not been made public. The report contains personal information about candidates for the vacancy. It is not usual practice for such reports to be made public.
6. The Parliamentary Service Commissioner's role is governed by the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*. The Presiding Officers are responsible for appointing the Secretary of a Parliamentary Department. The Presiding Officers cannot make an appointment unless they have received a report about the vacancy from the Parliamentary Service Commissioner.