

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Don Dale QTB

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

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Question:

Senator McALLISTER: I am really not asking for a general description about how that function works between you and the department. I am asking: on this occasion, did you or your office request a question time brief on this set of issues or did the department initiate it?

Senator Scullion: I did not request a question time brief. That is not usually how it works.

Senator McALLISTER: On this occasion you did not?

Senator Scullion: You will have to ask the department. If the department can assist, they should do so.

Mr Tongue: We would have to go and check. Some question time briefs we initiate; some question time briefs we are asked by the office to generate. There is no indication on the documents of question time briefs how that process occurred. I would have to make some inquiries to establish that.

Senator Scullion: I will have to check because the other side of it is whether my office asked, and you can get the answer from them. It is probably easier to get it from us, but to the best of my recollection that will not be the case.

Senator McALLISTER: What will not be the case?

Senator Scullion: I do not recall my office saying, 'Listen, let's go and have a question time brief,' on that particular matter.

Senator McALLISTER: To the best of your recollection, it was not something generated by your office, but you would like the opportunity to check your records.

Senator Scullion: Indeed.

Answer:

The Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, through an email from the Departmental Liaison Officer, asked the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to prepare a Question Time Brief on 12 October 2015.