

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 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Mr Rudd - Secretary General UN

Senator: Wong, Penny

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Question:

Senator WONG: Ms Kelly, can you tell me on how many occasions advice has been provided to the Prime Minister in relation to the UN Secretary-General selection?

Ms Kelly: It would be a matter for Mr McKinnon.

Mr McKinnon: I can say that the department did receive a copy of Mr Rudd's letter of 4 April regarding a nomination for UN Secretary-General, and we briefed the Prime Minister's office of 12 April on handling of the letter. Under caretaker conventions the brief was returned for possible consideration post the election. That is my only knowledge of it.

Senator WONG: Was the department ever part of preparing a cabinet submission on this matter?

Mr McKinnon: I think that goes to what the Attorney-General was talking about, re cabinet consideration.

Senator WONG: Are you taking it on notice?

Mr McKinnon: Yes.

Answer:

It is not appropriate to reveal what the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet may or may not have prepared for Cabinet on this matter.