

**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:** Candidacy for the Secretary-General of the UN

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question reference number:** 61

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 17 October 2016, pages 103 & 104

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator WONG: Was PM&C aware of any lobbying of other governments in relation to Mr Rudd's candidacy by the foreign minister?

Mr McKinnon: I would have to take that one on notice. I certainly was not.

Senator WONG: For example, was PM&C aware of meetings Mr Rudd was having with the Australian mission to the UN? I assume they would include it in the cable back.

Mr McKinnon: I think I did see such a cable. I would also like to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: More than one?

Mr McKinnon: I really could not say with any confidence. I do think I recall reading a cable at some stage.

Senator WONG: Okay. And did the cable precede the government's announcement that Mr Rudd would not be nominated?

Mr McKinnon: I do not know, and I am not even sure I have the right recollection about the cable, so I really would like to check it.

Senator WONG: Is PM&C aware of the foreign minister authorising the Australian mission in the UN to take soundings from other missions about Mr Rudd's candidacy?

Mr McKinnon: I would like to take that on notice. As I said, after we had done the initial brief and had not received any further request for information or any response, we had no real—

...

Senator WONG: It was 29 July 2016. What I would like to know is which communications—I do not need to know all the detail of them—including diplomatic communications and cables and suchlike were provided to the PMO that referenced the lobbying of other missions by the UN mission in respect of Mr Rudd's candidacy.

Mr McKinnon: I will take that on notice. I will just make the point that 'provided to' makes it sound like we collated a set and gave it—

**Answer:**

- a) The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) was not aware of any lobbying of other governments in relation to Mr Rudd's candidacy by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP.
- b) PM&C was not aware of any meetings between Mr Rudd and the Australian mission to the UN.
- c) PM&C was not aware of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, authorising the Australian mission in the UN to take soundings from other missions about Mr Rudd's candidacy.
- d) PM&C was provided no information and is not aware of any communication to the Prime Minister's office on lobbying by the Australian mission on behalf of Mr Rudd.