

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: Crossbenchers – Additional Staff

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question reference number: 63

Type of question: FPA Monday 17 October 2016, pages 110 & 111

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Thank you. This is the additional staff to the crossbenchers. Mr Rush, I took a note when you answered me, and I may not have got it down in detail. Your general advice—I think you described it as that. Is that a reasonable description—the general advice about crossbench allocations et cetera?

Mr Rush: I think I described it as advice about past practice and process.

Senator WONG: Thank you. Can you give me the date of that.

Mr Rush: I do not know the date. I do not have that date with me.

Senator WONG: Was it whilst the government was in caretaker?

Mr Rush: No.

Senator WONG: Was it after the election?

Mr Rush: It was after the election and after the end of the caretaker period.

Senator WONG: So there was a hiatus period, as it were, where there was still counting proceeding and so forth.

Mr Rush: That is right.

Senator WONG: Was it during that period or after the government had been sworn in?

Ms Kelly: It was just after the end of the caretaker period.

Mr Rush: It was certainly after the end of the caretaker period. Whether it was before or after the swearing in, I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Was it prepared at the request of the PMO?

Mr Rush: I believe so, but I would need to check that.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided general advice to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, on cross-bench staffing arrangements on 11 July 2016, on its own initiative.