

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: 64

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: During this period we know, obviously, the Prime Minister is talking to Ms McGowan and Mr Katter, because that is on the public record. Were you aware as to whether or not this advice was sought in relation to those discussions?

Mr Rush: No, I am not aware.

Senator WONG: Was the issue of staffing raised in those discussions, when Mr Turnbull was talking to the crossbench about supply and confidence?

Mr Rush: I am not aware of the discussion. I was not privy to those discussions.

Senator WONG: Was there any public servant involved in those discussions?

Ms Kelly: Not that I am aware of.

Senator WONG: Was the Prime Minister's chief of staff involved?

Ms Kelly: I cannot assist, but I am happy to take it on the notice.

Answer:

With respect to discussions the Prime Minister held with cross-bench Senators and/or Members between the 2 July election and 11 July 2016:

1. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not aware of any public servants being involved.
2. The Prime Minister's Office was involved in discussions.