

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

**Topic:** Minister for Social Inclusion - Charter letters

**Senator:** Senator Fifield

**Question reference number:** 25

**Type of Question:** FPA, P77, 13 February

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 30 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator FIFIELD: We are well into February now. Do you know whether the charter letters have been drafted and delivered to the Prime Minister's office? I am starting to feel a little bit of sympathy for Minister Butler. He is dutifully sitting at his desk waiting for his instructions: when is this charter letter going to come so that I can answer that question?"

Senator Chris Evans: We will take that question on notice because of the issues about how far officers ought to go in terms of cabinet issues. [...]

**Answer:**

The charter letters are the subject of ongoing Cabinet deliberations. The Department is unable to comment on matters relating to them at this time.