

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**  
**Outcome/Program: 1.1 – Prime Minister and Cabinet**  
**Topic: Leaders’ Debate Commission**

**Senator: Abetz**

**Question reference number: 11**

**Type of question: Hansard, pp78-79, 23 May**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ: I assume this is for the domestic policy group: how is the leaders' debate commission going? I understand that the Prime Minister wrote to Senator Brown about that?**

**Senator Chris Evans: Just give us a second to see that we have the right officer at the table.**

**Mr Lewis: Could you just put that question again, please?**

**Senator ABETZ: The leaders' debates commission? I am not sure of the date, but the Prime Minister wrote to Senator Brown in response to his letter of 16 March 2011. It relates to paragraph 3(a) of the Green-Labor deal after the election, about a leaders' debate commission.**

**Mr Lewis: I understand that that letter did not come from the department.**

**Senator ABETZ: Aha! All right. In that case, Minister, can you take it on notice please.**

**...**

**Senator Chris Evans: I suspect you ought to ask your questions under SMOS, but I will take the question on notice that you have put.**

**Answer:**

The matter is under consideration.