

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Emergency safeguard measures

Senator: Senator McKenzie

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Question:

Senator McKENZIE: I am just wondering what the typical time lines from receipt of something like an application for safeguard measures would be for the person or the company that wrote to hear back from government.

Dr de Brouwer: I think that, despite our best efforts, this is one that we are not going to know off the tip of our tongue. You will have to come back.

Ms Taylor: Senator, thank you for the question. Unfortunately, I really do not have any idea. That is not something that PM&C would ordinarily be involved in. We would really have to take that on notice for you.

Senator McKENZIE: All right—just the typical time lines. It has been a month now, and we still have not heard one way or the other.

Answer:

- Given the small number of safeguards applications the Government has received in recent years, it is not possible to provide typical time lines.
- We are advised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that in relation to the two previous safeguard investigations undertaken in Australia since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (both into the import of pigment), the timeframe for deciding whether to commence an investigation was between four and six weeks. In both cases, the Productivity Commission took three to eight months to investigate and report to the Government.