

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Furniture moving
Question: 154
Hansard reference F&PA p.53, 15 October 2012

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

Senator KROGER: In terms of moving furniture around, given that you would not want individuals moving their own furniture around, what would be a reasonable time frame in which someone could expect that to happen inside their office?

Ms Mills: I am sorry, but I will have to take that on notice.

Senator KROGER: Just moving a bookcase or a desk from one side of an office to another.

Ms Mills: I will take that on notice. I might also say, in terms of the furnishings inside an office, a lot of those responsibilities rest with the House of Representatives department or the Senate department and not my own department, DPS. So perhaps in taking that on notice I can also give you a list of who does what.

Senator KROGER: I am particularly interested in who undertakes and is responsible for the task in the Senate and what a normal time frame for that is.

Answer

The office of the Usher of the Black Rod has advised that, within Senators' suites, movement and configuration of furniture is performed by external removalists, who are coordinated by the Senators' Services Section within the Black Rod's Office.

On receiving and assessing a request, Senators' Services schedules the work to occur as soon as possible, noting that the timeframe to complete a furniture configuration / movement request is constrained by:

- availability of the removalists;
- the need to group a number of requests together to ensure cost-effective and efficient use of the removalists;
- whether the request also involves moving telephones and IT equipment; and
- whether the request falls on a sitting day.

To ensure that building occupants are not adversely impacted, removalists are scheduled for the next available non-sitting period.

In the Senate wing, the only exception to the above is the President's Suite, which contains commissioned furniture. In this case, DPS staff would be involved in the movement of this furniture. The furniture in this suite is only moved if the suite requires painting or carpeting, as the furniture has been purpose built and, in most cases, can only fit within the suite in its original position.