

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Mobile Phones for Ministers

Question reference number: F40

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Senator Ronaldson and Senator Collins asked:

Senator RONALDSON—Thank you. I will try and put most of this on notice. In relation to the second mobile phone for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, are what are called the ‘home department’ mobile phones still available or have they been taken out?

...

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—I was wondering earlier whether the questions about the two mobile phones related to the fact that some years ago departments provided Ministers with PDAs, whereas they were not available through M&PS.

Answer:

All Senators and Members are provided with a choice of either: two mobile telephones, to the value of \$800 each, as approved by the Special Minister of State; or, one mobile telephone and one combined mobile telephone / Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). Where a PDA is selected, it is provided for use by the Senator or Member only.

Portfolio departments may provide additional mobile telephones and/or PDAs to their Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.