

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 3.1.1

Topic: Mobile Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)

Question reference number: F70

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA Written QON Pg 22 on 24 February 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

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Senator Ryan asked:

a) Since November 2007, how many Blackberry/Personal Digital Assistants have been destroyed rather than re-deployed for use by Ministers and their staff across the Government?

If so:

b) Why were they destroyed rather than redeployed?

c) What was the cost of replacing these?

d) Who destroyed these?

e) Did the internal or external party responsible for destroying these have a security clearance?

Answer:

a. In relation to the allocation of Personal Digital Assistants to Senators and Members under their electorate office entitlement, 53 devices have been replaced. To date, no Blackberrys, which is a form of Personal Digital Assistant, have been destroyed or re-deployed.

b. Where the device was returned to the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) it was destroyed if the device was both out of warranty and/or beyond repair. Where a device was reported lost, our help desk service provider, the Department of Parliamentary Services was responsible for ensuring the devices were remotely sanitised thus destroying the data contained thereon.

c. The cost of replacing the destroyed devices is \$47,482.15 to date.

d. As the data contained on these devices is rated as 'unclassified', Finance staff destroyed these devices.

e. All internal Finance staff have a minimum security clearance of 'Protected'.