

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2009

Question: PM13

Topic: Review of PM32b (PM&C cooperation with CMAX investigation) from October Supplementary Budget Estimates

Hansard Page: F&PA 59

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

Senator Ronaldson asked: Surely that should have been the answer, shouldn't it? 'These are the ones that I have records of. This the information that I have provided to the ANAO because those details were available.' I am still perplexed by the commentary about the ANAO performance audit. I took that to read that because they were doing it you were not able to provide the information, but that is not the situation, is it?

Mr Mrdak-No, Senator. What I was trying to capture there was the fact that I could not accurately provide all the information you sought and, as I said, the ANAO has had access to all our records. But I am happy to review this answer in the light of this discussion.

Answer: The answer provided in response to question on notice 32b from October 2008 Supplementary Budget Estimates has been reviewed.

The Department is unable to provide accurate details of each meeting, interview, phone call, email and discussion that has occurred between the Department and the Prime Minister's office or the Cabinet Secretary and or his office and which may have involved some mention of this issue. The ANAO undertook a detailed and exhaustive investigation into the awarding of the CMAX contract and its key findings are presented in the audit report *CMAX Communications Contract for the 2020 Summit* tabled on 4 February 2009.