

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: PM20a-h

Outcome 1, Output 5

Topic: Prime Minister's Travel

Hansard Page: F&PA 74

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

Senator Ronaldson asked: Mr Mrdak, can you advise me how many days between 30 December 2008 and 1 February 2009 that Mr Rudd was at Kirribilli House?

Ms Mrdak—I would have to take that on notice. I am not in a position to give you that information today.

Senator RONALDSON—Do you know if Mr Rudd attended the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne?

Mr Mrdak—I do not. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—If he did, do you know how many days he was there?

Mr Mrdak—Again, Senator, I have no knowledge of that matter. I will take that on notice, if that is okay.

Senator RONALDSON—If he did, do you know whether he flew from Sydney or Canberra?

Mr Mrdak—Again, the Prime Minister was on periods of leave during that time. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—If he did, do you know whether he returned from Melbourne to Sydney or Canberra?

Mr Mrdak—Again, if I could wrap those questions up and come back to you—

Senator RONALDSON—Do you know whether his travel was on a VIP or by commercial aircraft?

Mr Mrdak—No, I do not know.

Senator RONALDSON—Did any family members travel with him to Melbourne?

Mr Mrdak—I do not know. I will take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—Has the department done any calculations as to the greenhouse gas emissions that may have been caused by this travel to the Boxing Day Test?

Mr Mrdak—We have done no such calculations.

Senator RONALDSON—Could you do so for me?

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Mr Mrdak—I can make inquiries as to whether that is possible. As I said, I do not know the circumstances of whether he did or did not travel to that Test. I will endeavour to find out.

Answer: Detailed information about the Prime Minister's residency patterns will not be provided for security and privacy reasons. We can advise that between the 2007 election and 23 February 2009 the Prime Minister spent 99 nights at Kirribilli House.

Information about the use of Special Purpose Aircraft is recorded by the Department of Defence and tabled in parliament on a six-monthly basis.

The website of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts contains a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator that provides for the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions for transport.