

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010**

**Question: PM42**

**Topic: People Smuggling - Merak Vessel and Advice to PMO**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 8 February 2010 pp95**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG-[...]You have had a discussion about the Oceanic Viking, but I have questions specifically in relation to the cargo ship that is docked in Merak, which we know is a different vessel. My questions go to the interaction that the Prime Minister's office has had with Border Protection, Customs, the Federal Police, Foreign Affairs, and Immigration because, of course, it has been reported that it was the Prime Minister who asked for this boat to be intercepted by the Indonesian government. Border Protection and Customs have not been able to tell us when, indeed, the Prime Minister's office was notified about this boat's existence. We know the boat was intercepted on 11 October by the Indonesian government. When was the Prime Minister's office made aware of the boat's existence?**

**Mr Lewis-I do not have a record here of when that might have happened. It probably would have been a little time after 11 October, but I cannot be precise. I can take that question on notice and see if, in fact, that advice was given to the PMO.**

**Answer:** The Prime Minister's office was provided information on the existence of the vessel. The timing of that advice cannot be revealed as it is operationally sensitive.