

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: PM43

Topic: People Smuggling - PM engagement

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Senator HANSON-YOUNG-When the decision is to inform or request the Indonesian government to participate in that disruption activity, as the Customs and Border Protection Service put it-it is a disruption activity-is that advice that is given to the Prime Minister at the time or is that routinely done.

Mr Lewis-That is an operational matter.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG-What makes it an issue where the Prime Minister needs to be involved? Why would the Prime Minister have been told about this particular case?

Mr Lewis-If it is considered to be a matter that is of sufficient gravity, sufficiently unusual, sufficiently important or sufficiently complex-but that is a matter of judgment.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG-So we do not know exactly when, but can you take that on notice?

Answer: Please see the answer to question PM42.