

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Australia Day Function - PM and Ben Hubbard briefing

Senator: Senator Brandis

Question reference number: 13

Type of Question: FPA, P64, 13 February

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BRANDIS: Can I add another question that I would like taken on notice, please, Senator Evans. By whom was the decision taken to either require or accept Mr Hodges' resignation? Was it by Mr Hubbard, the chief of staff, or by some other person and, if so whom? And at what time on either Thursday evening or Friday - that is, on the evening of the 26th or the 27th was the decision made to accept or require Mr Hodges' resignation?

Senator Chris Evans: I will take that on notice. If there is anything that the PM wants to add to the statement, which says, "Mr Hodges had already offered his resignation to my chief of staff. He offered his resignation to me and I accepted it because his conduct was unauthorised and unacceptable."

Senator BRANDIS: We might also ask the minister to take on notice: at what time did Mr Hodges first offer his resignation? I asked you before about when it was accepted or required. Can you also tell us what time it was offered for the first time?

Senator Chris Evans: As I say, the Prime Minister has made a statement that is on the record. But if there is anything we can add, I will take it on notice

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has no additional information beyond the detailed statements made by the Prime Minister in relation to the events on Australia Day.