

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Election Announcement - Consultation with PM&C

Senator: Senator Sinodinos

Question reference number: 6

Type of Question: FPA, P65

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

If I can just move on. The Prime Minister has indicated that she had, more or less, made this decision over the summer and then consulted some of her political colleagues. When did the Prime Minister consult the Prime Minister's department about the implications of making such an announcement?

Senator Conroy: I am happy to take that on notice. I am unaware because I was on leave for most of January and I was..

Senator SINODINOS: I am asking about the department's..

Senator Conroy: I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator SINODINOS: Then, potentially on notice, do you take the following question: whether the department was asked to provide advice not only legally or in terms of standing conventions but in terms of implications for the economy or for policy generally or for good governance in announcing the date so far ahead of when it is usually done?

Senator Conroy: I am happy to take that on notice. There is nothing I could add, even if I wanted to. I do not think you should undermine Senator Brandis's stellar performance from earlier today - do we have Humpty Dumpty there? That is very naughty of you.

Answer: The department was consulted prior to the announcement. It is not proposed to provide details of that consultation on the basis that it goes to the deliberative process of Government.