

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 26 May 2002

Question: PM02

Outcome 1

Topic: Use of letterhead and ownership of correspondence

Hansard Page: 88-89

Senator Murray asked: "... whether correspondence received by Dr Hollingworth related to his former occupation and replied to by him on Commonwealth letterhead is the property of the Commonwealth – the property of the office of the Governor-General – or his personal property?"

Response:

The correspondence that was considered not solely of a private nature has been retained as records of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Question: PM03

Outcome 1

Topic: Function at Admiralty House

Hansard Page: 91-92

Senator Faulkner asked:

The following has been drawn from the Hansard record for ease of reply:

- (a) Where the request for the co-hosting of the function ... came from?
- (b) Whether the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet requested that there be restrictions on the movement of the media at that function. If that is the case, who requested it and for what reasons?
- (c) Whether the Office was informed as to whether the reasons for this [media being told to meet at Victoria Barracks] was that protesters might become aware of the function for the families?
- (d) Did those circumstances [need to cover up where the function would be held] in part lead to Admiralty House ... being seen as an appropriate venue for the hosting of this particular function?

Response:

- (a) The function was co-hosted by the Governor-General and the Prime Minister at the request of the Prime Minister's Office.
- (b) It is usual at any official function for the media to be allocated an area where they can view proceedings. We have been advised by the Department of Defence that for this function the Prime Minister's Office asked for the media to initially remain within an area on the southern side of Admiralty House in consideration of the possible sensitivities of family members of the Australian service men and women to media attention.
- (c) We have been advised by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that the media were asked to assemble at Victoria Barracks because of the inherent parking difficulties around Admiralty House.
- (d) Admiralty House was used for the function because the function was co-hosted by the Governor-General.