

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 22-23 May 2006

Question: PM 11

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: UN Oil-For-Food Programme investigation

Hansard Page: F&PA 94:

Senator Evans asked:

Mr Lewis—I will ask Mr Glyde to address the question on the Indian matter that is running in the newspapers today.

Mr Glyde—I am not aware as to when PM&C first became aware of this matter, but I am aware that this is a matter that is being dealt with by the Attorney-General's Department, and I suggest that is probably the best place to direct the questions in the first instance. I can get back to you in relation to when PM&C first became aware of the allegations, but I do not have the specifics of that. It is a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—In terms of PM&C's knowledge, are we talking recent times or are we confident it was some years ago when the matter was more current?

Mr Glyde—That is what I really have to check. I am not quite sure about when PM&C first became aware of this—whether it was just in recent times or earlier.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—I was not going to hold you to the date; I was just trying to get a sense of whether you were involved when the issue first came up.

Mr Glyde—I am afraid I do not have that information.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you could take that on notice for me?

Mr Glyde—Yes.

Answer:

Mutual assistance is the responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department. Mutual assistance is handled in accordance with the *Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987*.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's records show no indication that the department was aware of the mutual assistance request at the time of the request. The subject matter of the mutual assistance request was brought to the attention of the department in the context of the Cole Inquiry in March 2006.