

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 18

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: David Hicks

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Senator Faulkner asked: Minister, are you able to assist me as to whether Mr Hicks and his incarceration at Guantanamo Bay was a matter that was discussed between President Bush and Mr Howard?

Senator Minchin—I am sorry but I am not in a position to confirm that.

Senator FAULKNER—I am disappointed that no-one—senior officials or the Leader of the Government in the Senate representing the Prime Minister in the Senate—knows whether this issue was raised. I am not going to the content of the discussion; just to whether the issue was canvassed.

Senator Minchin—I do not have the transcript of the Prime Minister's press conference subsequent to his meetings. We would only be at liberty to talk about or confirm those things which the Prime Minister himself had said on his trip that he had discussed with Mr Bush. I apologise for not having in my consciousness whether or not that was raised by the Prime Minister.

Senator FAULKNER—So will you take it on notice?

Senator Minchin—I am happy to do so.

Answer:

Yes.