

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 7

Outcome 1, Output 3.1

Topic: UN Oil-For-Food Programme investigation

Hansard Page: F&PA 90-91:

Senator Faulkner asked: Senator FAULKNER—Did the department brief the Prime Minister for discussions with Mr Thawley in September and October 2004?

Mr Lewis—I do not believe so, but I do not have any specific information to that extent. I go back to the answer we gave to your question with regard to the Prime Minister's involvement or engagement with Ambassador Thawley, where we have said to you formally that Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet records show that there is no record of the department having a role in Ambassador Thawley's meeting. I cannot give you a more definitive answer than that. If I could take that one on notice, we can get you a very quick answer as to whether a brief went to the Prime Minister.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not provide any briefing to the Prime Minister for any discussions which may have taken place between the Prime Minister and Ambassador Thawley in September and October 2004.