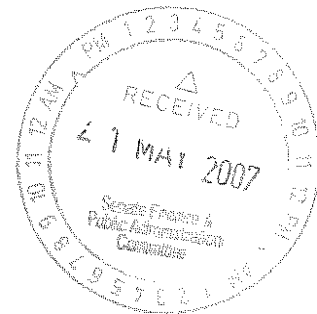


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

21 MAY 2007

Senator Mitch Fifield
Chairman
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Fifield

In response to a question asked today during estimates for the Department of Parliamentary Services, the Usher of the Black Rod has provided me, for forwarding to the committee, the following response relating to the recent refurbishment of the Government Deputy Whip's suite:

Joinery was installed in the Government Deputy Whip's suite on 16 January 2007 in response to a request from Senator Parry to provide kitchenette style cupboards. This work was done in conjunction with a planned general refurbishment of the suite.

The joinery consisted of:

- Bench and splashback;
- Under bench cupboards; and
- Over head cupboards.

The total cost of this work was \$3,135 (excluding floor covering).

Installation of these cupboards was scheduled to coincide with a planned general refurbishment of the suite which included replacing worn carpet with vinyl flooring in the area used for food and drink preparation.

I should clarify my evidence that the Government Whip, Senator George Campbell, has indicated the Opposition Deputy Whip does not at this stage want a similar arrangement to what has occurred in the Government Deputy Whip's suite, but Senate officers are in consultation with both Whips about the general utility of their respective suites.

Yours sincerely

(Paul Calvert)