

ESTIMATES 2008–09 — BUDGET ESTIMATES, May 2008
Questions on Notice (QON) index—Parliamentary Portfolio

Answers to QON taken during the Additional Estimates hearing, or written QON submitted thereafter, are due 11 July 2008.

QON No.	Department	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments/ date answer received
P1	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 10&12.	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Just out of interest, Mr Thompson, could you take on notice the number of [DPS] staff who were employed in Parliament House in March of 1996 and November of 2007?... Yes. Perhaps DPS staff in Parliament House and DPS as a whole—so those who might have been housed outside Parliament House on those dates.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Earlier you asked for staffing numbers for March 1996 and November 2007. The March 1996 figures would be the aggregate of figures, if we can dig them up, for the three predecessor departments. We would have to see what level of detail we have in our records.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Thank you. I appreciate the clarification.</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.
P2	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 11.	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Okay. Mr Thompson, can I have a list of any consultancies and contracts that DPS have awarded in the last six months, including the value of each, the recipient's name, and a short description of the purpose of the consultancy or contract?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not think there is a problem with that. We would not be able to table that today as there are quite a few of them.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I assumed there would be no problems with it. Please take it on notice.</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.
P3	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 28.	<p>Senator FIFIELD—...Mr Nakkan, if you could take on notice which office suites were affected by the [lighting] malfunction [during the night of Earth Hour].</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—Yes.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—And also the exact nature of what the malfunction was.</p>	Answer received 11/07/08. Correction to answer received 17/10/08.
P4	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 29.	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can we find out what meetings [involving the DPS volunteer for the 2020 summit] did take place during work hours and whether that was undertaken as a volunteer, as in</p>	Answer received

				<p>leave without pay, or whether the person was paid during his or her absences? Could you take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Missingham—Yes.</p>	11/07/08.
P5	DPS	NETTLE	F&PA 37.	<p>Senator NETTLE—Yes. Do you have an idea of what is an appropriate period of time? How long should it take?...</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I can undertake to look the processes and the time frames, given that I cannot answer your question now about how long it takes and how long it should take.</p>	This question was partially answered on p. 37.
P6	DPS	NETTLE	F&PA 38.	<p>Senator NETTLE—Does DPS or WebSense keep a log of the sites that people try to visit and get blocked from visiting by the filter?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—DPS keeps a log of all sites that are visited, successfully or otherwise. I do not know what logs WebSense keeps, if any. We will get that answered for you.</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.
P7	DPS	NETTLE	F&PA 39.	<p>Senator NETTLE—I know there has been discussion at this committee in the past about whether disciplinary actions had occurred because of inappropriate access when it was applied originally to all the staff in the building. Are you able to tell the committee whether there has been any disciplinary action in relation to senators or their staff accessing inappropriate sites?...</p> <p>Senator NETTLE—Do you know how many times DPS has had to report that to a senator or member?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—No. We could trace back. It is not a large number. I am aware of one or two. I would not expect necessarily to be aware of every particular case, although I might well get a report.</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.
P8	DPS	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 40.	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—When was that [Budget week] booking that was made by the ALP? It was made by the head office, was it?...I am interested in whether it was made by a Labor member of parliament. Mr Kenny said it was the ALP. I just assumed that was the Australian Labor Party as an entity... Perhaps you could take that on notice and also give me the date that that booking was made.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We can...</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.
P9	DPS	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 41.	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—To put it into historical context, could you give us a breakdown of the last five budget years, just to see who booked what? You could take that on notice if you do not mind.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We can take it on notice. However, we may have to rely on information from the Hyatt.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I appreciate that, absolutely. Can you give me a</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.

				breakdown of all the venue hires for that budget week, including the duration of each function, how much the department charged for venue hire for each event, catering details and a bill for each event, and security hire details and a bill for each event. Please take this on notice. Mr Kenny —Yes.	
P10	DPS	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 41.	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Could you also take this on notice: in previous years, what has been the policy regarding hire? You have indicated to me the policy regarding the hiring of the Great Hall. Perhaps you could just go back and look at that in a historical context and at what has traditionally been the usage of the Great Hall. In the context of that, was anything different this year? Why was anything different this year? And what was the basis of authorisation of that? Could you also take on notice how much is charged for hire of the Great Hall, how that is broken down, and how it compares with similar sized venues in Canberra. Mr Kenny —We can certainly answer how much is charged and what the breakdown is. We can try and get something... The PRESIDENT —There is also one part of that question that the department will not be able to answer, and that is in relation to, ‘Why was it different this year?’ The reason it was different this year was because of a decision of the Presiding Officers, not of DPS.	Answer received 11/07/08.
P11	DPS	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 41–42.	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —I appreciate that. I just wanted to put into a more historical context what had been previously raised by Senator Heffernan. Are you aware of any concerns that had been raised by members and senators other than Senator Heffernan in relation to the usage of the Great Hall this year?... But only Senator Heffernan has raised concerns directly to you and to the Presiding Officers? The PRESIDENT —I will have to check with the Speaker. I am not sure about the Speaker.	Answer received 11/07/08.
P12	DPS	FIELDING	F&PA 45.	Senator[FIELDING] —If you could look at it and consider it and maybe come back to me. As I said, there is a need out there and it would be foolish to just cut people out because they cannot afford to come and hold functions here. Thank you. Mr Thompson —We will have a look and we will come back to you.	Answer received 11/07/08.
P13	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 46.	Senator RONALDSON —It is. It seems to me that it [the forecourt water feature] is regularly being cleaned and I assume that it is the ducks that are causing this every night. I am wondering what the cost of that is... Mr Nakkam —I would have to take those costs on notice. The activity is associated with the duck mess.	Answer received 11/07/08.
P14	Senate	RONLADSON	F&PA 49.	Senator RONALDSON —Yes, I do understand that. Anyway, you will provide the committee with whatever information you deem relevant, I take it. Mr Evans —All we can do is provide the resolutions of the two houses and draw your attention to areas where they might differ.	Answer received 26/05/08.

P15	DPS	POLLEY	Written	See attachment	Answer received 11/07/08.
P16	DPS	NETTLE	F&PA 36	<p>Senator NETTLE—Do you know if you did make restrictions? When you took Websense on, do you know if you gave them a set of parameters to say, ‘We only want these types blocked.’</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Yes, we can provide you with the parameters about what is blocked as a result of us installing Websense.</p> <p>Senator NETTLE—That would be good.</p>	Answer received 11/07/08.

Written Questions on Notice

**PDA–Complaints
P15 (POLLEY)**

How many jobs have been lodged with the Parliamentary IT Service Help Desk (2020) specifically relating to problems occurring with PDA's?