

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008



Question: PM19

Outcome 1, Output 3

Topic: Involvement of PM&C, PMO and the Prime Minister in relation to the rendition of Mamdouh Habib

Hansard Page: F&PA 95

Senator Faulkner-...I will try and make sure that in taking your question on notice we give as thorough and considered a response to you on these issues as we are able to do. But I think it is appropriate that those people who are working directly on these matters, obviously, have an opportunity to contribute to any such advice that comes back to the committee. I think that is a sensible way of dealing with this.

Senator NETTLE-That is fine. Can I just frame the question broadly. I want to know what involvement the Prime Minister's department, the Prime Minister's office and the Prime Minister had in relation to the rendition of Mamdouh Habib. That is how the question was phrased in the Attorney-General's Department in terms of their knowledge of it and their subsequent involvement. Senator Faulkner-I certainly understand the question, and I think it is best dealt with in the way that I have outlined.

Answer: Departmental records do not show any involvement by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the former Prime Minister's Office or the former Prime Minister in the transfer of Mr Habib.

On 5 April 2002, the department provided an adviser in the former Prime Minister's Office with an information brief on Mr Habib's whereabouts. On 17 April 2002, the department provided the former Prime Minister with an information brief on Mr Habib's whereabouts.