

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: PM64

Outcome 1, Output 5.1

Topic: Charter letters - when did the PM change his mind and why was no public statement made

Hansard Page: F&PA 82

Senator Abetz asked: Senator ABETZ-On what date did the Prime Minister change his view in relation to charter letters? Why was no public statement made in relation to his change of view? Why did we have to get it out of you at Senate estimates rather than this information being volunteered to us?

Senator Faulkner-In fact the information was volunteered at Senate estimates. I do not know the precise date concerned. In relation to that question you have asked me, I am happy to take it on notice.

Senator ABETZ-Thank you. What about the other two questions? Why no public statement?

Senator Faulkner-I am using the word 'question' in the broadest possible terms and I understand-

Senator ABETZ-No. You said you were prepared to take the first question on notice. I asked three. I am now asking you to take all three on notice.

Senator Faulkner-And I am very happy to do so.

Answer: Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice PM8.