

**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 Hearing 25-29 May 2009

**Question: PM109a-e**

**Outcome 1, Output 5**

**Topic: Awarding of the Victoria Cross to Trooper Donaldson**

**Senator: Ronaldson**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of pages: 1**

**In relation to the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Trooper Donaldson in January 2009:**

- a) **On what day was the Prime Minister or his office first contacted in relation to the ceremony at Government House?**
- b) **Was the Prime Minister or his office or his department responsible for the media doorstep attended by the Prime Minister at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) earlier in the day? If not, who organised this event?**
- c) **Were members of the electronic media invited to the AWM event? If not, why not?**
- d) **Was the Honorary Colonel of the Special Air Service Regiment invited to attend the AWM event? If not, why not?**
- e) **Was Mr Gower aware that the Prime Minister intended to use the facilities of the AWM for the media event? If so, when was he informed of this intention?**

**Answer:**

- (a) The Department is not privy to communications between Government House and the Prime Minister's Office.
- (b) The Department is advised there was no media event involving the Prime Minister at the Australian War Memorial on that day.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) The Department does not know what Mr Gower may or may not have been aware of. Mr Gower would be best placed to answer this question.