

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates for 2009-10 (May 2009)**

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General**  
**Outcome/Output Group:**

Outcome 1: The Governor-General is enabled to perform the constitutional, statutory, ceremonial and public duties associated with the appointment.

Output Group 1.1 – Support of the Governor-General,

Output Group 1.2 – Administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system

**Topic: Victoria Cross investiture**

**Senator: RONALDSON**

**Question reference number: PM5b**

**Type of question: Hansard, 25 May p.65**

**Senator RONALDSON**—Mr Turnbull was never actually officially advised of the nature of the ceremony; is that correct?

**Mr Brady**—The Leader of the Opposition was given the rightful courtesy of being the only person contacted directly by the Governor-General.

**Senator RONALDSON**—But the nature of the ceremony was not explained to him, was it? Can you take that on notice for me.

**Mr Brady**—Yes, I will.

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Answer:**

I can confirm the Leader of the Opposition was the only person advised directly by the Governor-General that an event of national importance was to occur the following day at Government House. The precise nature of the event was not disclosed in that conversation, although in a subsequent conversation with the Official Secretary, tacit indication was reached on the likely nature of the event. Other attendees, including the recipient's family (other than his wife), were similarly not told beforehand of the precise nature of the ceremony.