

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: PM67

Topic: Economic Stimulus Plan Website - access to subscription database

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 26 May p61

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

Number of pages: 2

Senator RONALDSON-The contact details of subscribers to the website: where is that information distributed to?

Mr Mrdak-Contact details are not distributed, per se.

Senator RONALDSON-There is a regular update service, isn't there?

Mr Mrdak-There is.

Senator RONALDSON-Which means that you have people's details-

Mr Mrdak-That is right.

Senator RONALDSON-but you are updating them.

Mr Mrdak-That is right. The website is hosted and managed on behalf of the government by the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations. Their web unit manages the site and manages that subscription database.

Senator RONALDSON-And does the employment minister have access to that database?

Mr Mrdak-Not that I am aware of.

Senator RONALDSON-If it is being managed by that department, why would the minister not have access to it?

Mr Mrdak-I cannot see that the minister would need access to that sort of information. Essentially, this is for people who wish to receive regular updates of information. I will check the access to the data but my understanding is that that is just managed by the department as a process.

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Answer:

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations does not have access to the Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP) website subscription database.

The information provided by persons who wish to subscribe to the ESP subscription service is collected and recorded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the purpose of maintaining the subscription service. The ESP website Privacy Statement sets out the conditions for subscription. This statement discloses the Department's information gathering and dissemination practices which are set out in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

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