

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: PM76

Outcome 1, Output 3

Topic: Has PM&C been informed of requests to Defence not to release still photography or footage of Ashmore Reef incident?

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 26 May p69

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

Number of pages: 1

Senator RONALDSON-Have Defence been asked by the Northern Territory coroner or anyone else not to release still photography or footage?

Senator Faulkner-I am only aware of the information that I was provided, and I hope I have been able to faithfully report it here at the committee. But I will certainly check for you whether that is still the status. Obviously, it is a matter directly for Defence, not the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Whether PM&C have been informed, I do not know. I would not expect them to be in the ordinary course of events. I will check that for you and let you know as soon as I can if there have been any developments.

Senator RONALDSON-And also any requests of Defence by the coroner or anyone else requesting Defence that they not release the video footage or still photography?

Senator Faulkner-I can take that on notice.

Answer: The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has not been advised of any approach from Defence on this matter.

Any requests of Defence by the coroner regarding the release of video footage or photography should be directed to the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon John Faulkner.