

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 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM30d

Topic: Deputy PM's Office - FOI Request - Minister's personal knowledge

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 68, 25 May

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Senator RONALDSON-Are you personally aware of whether that has been refused? There have been two refusals for?

Senator Ludwig-FOI requests do not come to me.

Senator RONALDSON-I am asking you whether you have personal knowledge of it.

Senator Ludwig-I will go back and check my record to see. There is a range of FOI requests that have come across my desk-in my previous role as Human Services Minister and as Cabinet Secretary and Special Minister of State. I do not want to provide any inaccurate information to the committee. I am happy to go away and have a look at my records.

Answer: I am aware that an FOI request was made to the Office of the then Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, for certain documents relating to Mr Fitzgibbon and Ms Helen Liu and that the applicant had been advised that documents described by the request would not be 'official documents of a Minister' within the meaning of section 4 of the FOI Act.