

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: PM45

Topic: Government Communications Contract - Mr Marshall and Alcatel

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 90, 25 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: 1

Senator RONALDSON-Mr Marshall left the communication minister's office within days of the grant of a \$250 million Commonwealth government communications contract. Did the minister consult with you or the Prime Minister's office about the probity issues involved with Mr Marshall's new job with Alcatel?

Senator Ludwig-I will take that on notice. I will check because you have asked not only my office but for a broader answer. To ensure that we have the facts I will take it on notice and get back to you.

Answer:

PM&C is advised by Senator Ludwig's office that he was not consulted by Minister Conroy on this issue.

The Ministerial Code of Conduct requires staff to:

- disclose, and take reasonable steps to avoid, any conflict of interests (real or apparent) in connection with their employment,(item 2);
- maintain appropriate confidentiality about their dealings with their Minister, other Ministers, other Ministerial staff (item 15),
- not make improper use of their position or access to information to gain or seek to gain a benefit or advantage for themselves or any other person (item 17).

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Disclosure under the Ministerial Code of Conduct is to the employing minister; there is no requirement for the employing minister to consult the Prime Minister or the Cabinet Secretary.

This person is not covered by the provisions of the Lobbying Code of Conduct (the Code). The Code only applies to a person, company or organisation who conducts lobbying activities on behalf of third-party clients.

As it is clear whose interests are represented by government relations staff employed within companies, they are not covered by the provisions of the Code.