

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: PM93

Topic: Cabinet's National Security Committee

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

- a) How often does the National Security Committee of Cabinet meet?**
 - b) Who is responsible for scheduling the meetings?**
 - c) How many times has the Committee met since November 2007?**
 - d) Have there been any occasions since November 2007 where the Committee has been kept waiting due to the absence of the Prime Minister?**
 - e) If so, how many occasions and how long was the Committee kept waiting?**
 - f) What reason was given for the Prime Minister's delayed attendance?**
 - g) Have any members of the Committee expressed their displeasure about having to wait for the Prime Minister? If so, whom?**
- a) **Answer:** NSC meetings are scheduled to occur approximately monthly, with additional meetings as required.
 - b) The Cabinet Secretary approves the Cabinet and Committee program.
 - c) 71 times.
 - d) Due to competing commitments the Prime Minister has, on a small number of occasions, delegated the chair of the National Security Committee to the Deputy Prime Minister or other senior minister.
 - e) n/a.
 - f) n/a.
 - g) No