

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: Defence budget cuts

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 31

Type of Question: FPA P14, 22 May 2012

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Question:

Senator Chris Evans: If your question is was the Prime Minister engaged with the decisions that were taken in the budget regarding defence expenditure, yes.

Senator RYAN: That is a charitable way of describing what I was asking, which was was the Prime Minister specifically briefed?

Senator Chris Evans: By whom?

Senator RYAN: By the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet about the implications of the cuts to the defence budget that were announced on 8 May?

Ms Noble: We can take that on notice.

Answer: Yes. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet briefed the Prime Minister on the implications of the Defence budget outcome announced in the 2012-13 Budget. The Department provides a range of advice to relevant ministers. Consideration of policy is a matter for the Australian Government.