

**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:** 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Foreign Minister – PM and C contact with Government House

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 53

**Type of Question:** FPA P23, 22 May 2012

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 6 July 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator RYAN: I appreciate that. I want to move to a step before that. When did the department advise the office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General that Senator Bob Carr was to be sworn in as foreign minister?

Ms Leon: I may have an officer here who can give you that date, but if not we will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

The Prime Minister announced a number of changes to the Ministry, including the appointment of the Hon Bob Carr as Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 2 March 2012. On 5 March, in anticipation of Mr Carr's nomination to fill the casual vacancy in the Senate being confirmed by the NSW Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office and the Official Secretary to the Governor-General made tentative arrangements for Mr Carr to be sworn in as Minister for Foreign Affairs on 13 March. Mr Carr's nomination to fill the vacancy was confirmed by a joint sitting of the NSW Parliament on 6 March. On 9 March, the Prime Minister wrote to the Governor-General confirming the arrangements for the swearing-in ceremony on 13 March.