

**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:** 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Bligh Street office of Senator the Hon Bob Carr

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 60

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 15 June 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. Did the Prime Minister or her staff or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet contact Senator Carr or his office regarding the Bligh St office on Thursday 24 May?

If so:

- a. what was the nature of the contact and by whom? (eg telephone call, email, letter, meeting in person)?
- b. what was discussed in this communication?
- c. Was the issue of the office of RJ Carr Pty Ltd discussed?
- d. Was there any instruction to agreement to amend the ASIC listing of RJ Carr Pty Ltd an outcome of the meeting?

2. On or since Thursday 24 May, has there been any communication or contact between the Prime Minister, her office or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

If so,

- a. Was the issue of RJ Carr Pty Ltd being registered at Senator Carr's Bligh St office discussed?

3. Does the listing of the office of RJ Carr Pty Ltd at Senator Carr's Bligh St office constitute a breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

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**Answer:**

1) to 3) Communications between the Prime Minister and Ministers related to private interests are confidential. The Prime Minister is satisfied that Senator Carr's arrangements are consistent with the obligations imposed on all Ministers under the Standards of Ministerial Ethics.