

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 Supplementary Hearings 2003-2004, 3-4 November 2003

Question: PM 2, 3 & 4

Outcome 1, Output 4

Topic: Questions on Notice

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Senator Crossin asked: I am wondering why, when questions on notice from the May hearings were due on 10 July, we did not receive any answers until two weeks ago? When did your [OSW] answers go to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet? Would you take on notice from me that I would like a very clear answer, other than: 'It is our clearing processes that delayed us 2½ months beyond the agreed time lines that the Senate sets,' as to why that is the case. I am asking you to go back and have a look at that, to assist further and to give me a satisfactory answer as to why the answers were late.

Answer: The draft responses for OSW were provided to the coordinating area of the department before the due date of 10 July 2003. The department endeavours to provide the responses to the committee by the due date but it is an iterative process to finalise responses. The department apologises for the delay in providing responses to the committee, and is currently looking at ways to expedite the process.