

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-09 (October 2008)

Index to Questions on Notice (QON)

Parliamentary Departments

Note: the FPA Committee resolved that agencies provide answers to Questions on Notice by Friday, 5 December 2008.

QON No.	Department	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments/ date answer received
P1	DPS	FIFIELD	F&PA 8	<p>Senator FIFIELD—Okay. I will continue on that point. In this article, it makes the point: ... usually reporters have been able to walk the corridors of Parliament House as long as they aren't disorderly—</p> <p>which you say is the case. The article goes on to say:</p> <p>... yesterday a <i>Daily Telegraph</i> journalist was stopped near the House of Representatives entrance and ordered to move on by an attendant who threatened to take away the reporter's pass.</p> <p>That incident has not come to your attention?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—No, it has not come to my attention. It may well have been an issue that was dealt with directly by the Serjeant-at-Arms.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Is it possible to take on notice whether there was such an incident?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can ask for any information they might have.</p>	Answer received 1/12/08.
P2	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 8-9	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Just on that point, while you are making those inquiries, can you also look at a story and a photograph in the <i>Australian</i> on 29 May which showed one of the Prime Minister's security detail swatting aside the microphone of a radio reporter attempting to ask Mr Rudd a question on petrol prices. Please look at that matter and get back to me. Can you also advise whether the department has received any correspondence this calendar year from the Speaker's office or the Chief Government Whip's office in relation to the parliamentary access of</p>	Answer received 1/12/08.

				<p>journalists or any correspondence at all in relation to the action of journalists and the nature of that correspondence, the date of it and any response.</p> <p>Just so there is no confusion, Mr Thompson, can you detail what access is available, just to follow up Senator Fifield's question. What are the access rules for journalists?...Can you please detail exactly what the rules are and why the behaviour that Senator Fifield has alluded to and those following matters that I have also alluded to were acceptable—why those could be appropriate actions against journalists, given their fairly free access, quite rightly, to this building?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can certainly come back to you with that.</p>	
P3	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 12	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Have any walls being moved in MG8 that you are aware of?</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Would you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—I will take that on notice, but I would probably know about it if that had occurred.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I have walked around all of the special suites quite recently and I do not recall seeing any of that sort of work in any of the special suites in recent times. The most obvious changes to a number of those suites of course have been changes to the works of art on the walls, but other than that I do not recall any walls being removed or anything like that.</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—I will take that on notice and confirm that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—In relation to all those matters that I have raised this morning? [including damage, maintenance, repairs or renovations—see previous discussion on the same page]</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—Yes.</p>	Answer received 1/12/08.
P4	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 12	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Has there been any damage to assets in MG8 in this calendar year that you are aware of?</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—No damage to my knowledge. Again, that type of knowledge would usually be reported to me.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Will you take that on notice as well?</p> <p>Mr Nakkan—Yes, noting that I define assets as furniture and fit-out of the suite.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I would call assets vases and lights et cetera.</p>	Answer received 1/12/08.
P5	DPS	RONALDSON	F&PA 13	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Senate estimates training?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—Not external, but we encourage new SES officers to go on Australian Public Service Commission courses, which are multifaceted and they sometimes include some advice on attendance at estimates committees—though I am pretty sure it has not happened this calendar</p>	Answer received 1/12/08.

				<p>year.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—What is the nature of those courses?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—It is a lot of years since I have been on a course such as that, but it is just general advice on attendance at committees.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Can you take on notice for me which departmental staff have sought that training?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—I could tell you whether or not they have been to any training this calendar year.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Yes.</p>	
P6	DPS	FERGUSON	F&PA 14	<p>Senator FERGUSON—I am loath to ask questions, but there are a couple of things that have happened in the last couple of weeks that cause me to ask a question, particularly in relation to security. Currently, how many parliamentary passes are held by people to give them access to Parliament House?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—My recollection is that it is around 7,000, but we will—</p> <p>Senator FERGUSON—The last figure that I can remember is around 7½ thousand. That figure is in the ballpark, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—We will confirm that. We will be able to get that for you in the next few minutes, but yes.</p>	<p>Note: the figures was not confirmed during the hearing.</p> <p>Answer received 1/12/08.</p>
P7	DPS	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 18	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—On that point, can we have a detailed report on every complaint that has been lodged by any member or senator where your department has had to provide support? I do not need the detail; I just need the date and the nature of the complaint. I can tell you that, if the number of complaints are multiplied by 76 senators—which is the number that I have—your department would have been kept well and truly busy. You would have budgeted for a certain amount of money to support the PDAs, and so the other part of my question is: how much have you had to exceed your budget as a consequence of the deficiencies of those PDAs?</p> <p>Mr Kenny—On notice.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Kenny—When you say ‘every complaint’, what we will probably come up with is a list of incidents that have been reported. We will not be able to necessarily separate the complaints from other questions.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—That is fine.</p>	<p>Answer received 1/12/08.</p>
P8–P14	DPS	HUMPHRIES	Written	<p>See attachment below</p>	<p>Answer received 1/12/08.</p>

P15a– P15c	DPS	BOSWELL	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 1/12/08.
P16a– P16c	Senate	BOSWELL	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 29/10/08
P17	DPS	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 1/12/08.
P18	DPS	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 1/12/08.
P19a– P19c	DPS	SIEWERT	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 1/12/08.

Written Questions on Notice

P8–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

What is the staffing establishment for guides?

P9–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

How many guides are actually employed as at 20 October 2008?

P10a–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

How many guides are on long-term leave?

P10b–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

How many guides are deployed to other positions within Parliament House, such as being temporarily assigned as supervisors?

P11–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

At what frequency are tours of Parliament House provided to visitors to the building, other than previously organised visitors (eg school groups)?

P12–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

Over the past three months, prior to 20 October, how many times have scheduled tours of this kind been cancelled due to lack of available guides or for other reasons?

P13–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

Is it true that tours are no longer available in foreign languages? If so why not?

P14–DPS (HUMPHRIES)

In what ways, if any, has the efficiency dividend affected the availability of services provided through the guides?

P15a–DPS (BOSWELL)

What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for the Department of Parliamentary Services?

P15b–DPS (BOSWELL)

What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?

P15c–DPS (BOSWELL)

Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?

P16a–Senate (BOSWELL)

What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for the Department of the Senate?

P16b–Senate (BOSWELL)

What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?

P16c–Senate (BOSWELL)

Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?

P17–DPS (RONALDSON)

Have any structural changes been made to suite MG-8 since December 2007?

P18–DPS (RONALDSON)

Have any structural changes been made to 'Cabinet Suite MG-8' since December 2007?

P19a–DPS (SIEWERT)

Why is the apology manuscript not on public display in the Parliament?

P19b–DPS (SIEWERT)

How many requests have parliamentary information or tour staff had to view the apology manuscript?

P19c–DPS (SIEWERT)

Are there any plans to move the apology manuscript from the private area in the Mural Hall into a public area?

If so, when will this occur?