

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 - 23 Oct 2008



Question: PM8

Outcome 1, Output 5

Topic: Prime Minister's travel

Hansard Page: F&PA 51

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: I did get my records and indeed you made that reference directing me to the Department of Defence. The Department of Defence did transfer the question on 1 July to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration. In any case, it does not appear to have been answered. The bottom line is that, notwithstanding that the questions were raised at estimates and I went through the circuitous process of going through Defence for the purposes of PM&C, you did not actually answer the question for me...

Senator Faulkner-Did it go to ministerial staff travel?

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-No, one question did, the one to the Department of Defence specifically about the Prime Minister's travel.

Senator Faulkner-Some of the elements of this of course are properly also handled by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. In the same spirit as I have indicated to Senator Ferguson, we will sort it through. It may be that some elements of the question or your question relate obviously to the Department of Defence.

Answer:

The Department of Defence has responsibility for information relating to Special Purpose Aircraft. This is acknowledged at pages 32-41 of the Senate Hansard for the Supplementary Budget Estimates of Wednesday 22 October 2008 for the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and pages 160-165 of the Senate Hansard for the Budget Estimates of Wednesday 4 June 2008 for the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The two questions asked of the Department of Defence at the Budget Estimates hearing in May 2008 were referred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The answers to those questions were provided to the Finance and Public Administration Committee on 28 July 2008.