Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Approvals to install new software on Electorate Office PCs.**

Question: **P4**

Hansard reference: **F&PA 17, 19 October 2009**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Senator BERNARDI—I will address this to you, Mr Thompson. It is in regard to the 2020 service. Whenever we wanted to make an application to install new software on a PC we used to go through 2020 and approvals used to come reasonably quickly. There now seems to be a delay in receiving these approvals and I was advised that all requests now have to go to the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Is that correct? …

Mr Kenny—Are you talking about a request to install software in an electorate office?
Senator BERNARDI—Yes.
Mr Kenny—Can I take that on notice, because I am not sitting here conscious of a decision having been made?
Senator BERNARDI—I understand that and I think it is a terrific thing, but from my experience in the past you would submit a request to 2020 and you would get it very quickly. Upon inquiring as to why there had been increasing delays in receiving the response, I was advised that it now has to go to the department of finance for approval. If that is correct, I am wondering why there was a change in process. What were the objectives of the change in process? Can you enlighten me?
Mr Kenny—As I said, we will have to take that on notice and do some checking.

Answer

a.   There has been no recent change in processes of DPS for dealing with requests to install non-standard software in electorate offices.

a.   When a request is received, DPS assesses the software against its list of pre-approved and pre-denied software products.

b.   If the software requested does not appear on either list, the request is forwarded to the Department of Finance and Deregulation (**DOFD**) for consideration.