

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM12

Asked By: Senator Fifield

Topic: Cabinet Secretary's Office

Type of Question: FPA 55, 18 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of pages: 2

Senator FIFIELD-Does Mr Dreyfus have an office at 4 Treasury Place in the cabinet suite there?

Mr Sterland-We have had to deal with him in Melbourne, since he is Melbourne based, and he has used the cabinet suites to deal with some of those urgent matters because of the secure communications available. Let me take on notice the exact nature of those and whether office space has been permanently allocated. It is all in the process of consideration right now.

Senator FIFIELD-If you could take that on notice, and also on what basis that office space has been allocated. I appreciate that Mr Dreyfus is not a minister with executive responsibilities, as was Senator Faulkner, and being a minister entitles you to certain office accommodation in the Commonwealth office in the capital city of your residence if you choose. But, as I understand it, Mr Dreyfus is substantively a parliamentary secretary, so if he has been allocated office accommodation at 4 Treasury Place, under what criteria or rationale has that been provided?

Senator Chris Evans-We will take that on notice. I do not know what the answer is, but we will take that on notice. I would make the point, as the officer was trying to do, though, that with his cabinet responsibilities he will need access to things like the secure cabinet document service which, quite frankly, is always difficult. Coming from Western Australia, getting access to those things given the

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security thing is not easy, as are the arrangements around that in terms of where you can do it and how you can do it, but we will get you a fulsome answer.

Answer:

As a Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Dreyfus has an entitlement to an office in Parliament House and his electorate. He has not been allocated an office at 4 Treasury Place in Melbourne. However, given his role as Cabinet Secretary and the need to access Cabinet material from a secure ICT environment, the department has arranged for Mr Dreyfus to have access to and use of an office within the Cabinet Suite at 4 Treasury Place.