

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: PM79

Asked By: Senator Fielding

Topic: Incoming Government Brief - Release of Papers

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 3

- a) **Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called `Red Book?)?**
- b) **Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?**
- c) **If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?**
- d) **If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?**
- e) **Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?**
- f) **Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the `Blue Book?)?**
- g) **Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?**
- h) **If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?**
- i) **If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?**
- j) **Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?**

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Answer:

a) Yes.

b), c) and d) A redacted copy of the brief is provided with this answer. The redacted copy includes all material in the brief which has been released by the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The redactions remove:

- deliberative material which it would be contrary to the public interest to release under the FOI Act;
- material which could affect relations between the Commonwealth and the States and would be contrary to the public interest to release under the FOI Act;
- material release of which could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence and international relations of the Commonwealth;
- material which would disclose deliberations and decisions of the Cabinet which have not been officially published; and
- material disclosure of which could be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of certain persons.

e) No.

f) Yes.

g), h) and i) A redacted copy of the brief is provided with this answer. The redacted copy includes all material in the brief which has been released by the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The redactions remove:

- deliberative material which it would be contrary to the public interest to release under the FOI Act;
- material which could affect relations between the Commonwealth and the States and would be contrary to the public interest to release under the FOI Act;

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- material release of which could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence and international relations of the Commonwealth; and
- material disclosure of which could be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of certain persons.

j) No.