

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: PM84

Asked By: Senator Trood

Topic: National Security Committee of Cabinet (NSCC)

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

- a) **Has the NSCC met since the election? If so, on how many occasions has it met?**
- b) **Who attends the NSCC?**
- c) **Who is responsible for chairing the meetings?**
- d) **If the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are both absent from the meeting who then is responsible for chairing the meetings?**
- e) **In response to answers to questions on notice about the former Prime Minister "Due to competing commitments the Prime Minister has, on a small number of occasions, delegated the chair of the National Security Committee to the Deputy Prime Minister or other Senior minister."**
- i) **On how many occasions has the delegation taken place?**
- f) **Has there ever been an occasion in 2008, 2009 and 2010 when the meeting has been chaired by a representative from either the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister? If so, when? By whom?**
- g) **How many times did the NSCC meet in 2008, 2009, 2010?**
- h) **Are records kept of attendance? Do those records include the staffers of the members of the committee?**
- i) **Can those records of attendance be tabled?**

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

j) At any stage, was the work of the committee compromised due to the lateness or absence of the then Prime Minister Rudd and or Deputy Prime Minister?

k) On any occasion in 2008, 2009, 2010, did Mr Rudd's Chief of Staff, Alister Jordan or another member of his staff, deputise for Mr Rudd on the committee?

Answer:

- a) Yes. As at 22 November, the National Security Committee of Cabinet (NSC) has met four times since the 2010 election.
- b) Ms Gillard (Chair), Mr Swan (Deputy Chair), Mr Rudd, Mr Smith, Mr Bowen, Mr McClelland and Mr O'Connor. Senator Wong for items with financial implications. Mr Clare for Defence capability items.
- c) The Prime Minister.
- d) The Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- e) (i) Whenever the Prime Minister was not present the meeting was chaired by either the Deputy Prime Minister or another senior minister.
- f) No
- g) The NSC met 22 times in 2008, 26 in 2009 and to date 18 times in 2010.
- h) Yes. Yes.
- i) Attendance details form part of the Cabinet record and as such are not made public.
- j) No.
- k) No.