

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Security Breach at Parliament House - Discussion with Parliamentary Services

Senator: Senator Ryan

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator RYAN: Earlier today there was a discussion around the security breach in parliament on 23 August this year, when an intruder, apart from having seemingly free access to the building and wandering around to various offices, actually got into the Prime Minister's press conference with the minister for immigration and presented a document to the Prime Minister in front of the national press. Has the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet had interaction with the Department of Parliamentary Services about the security implications of that?

Ms Leon: Not as far as I am aware; we have not been involved in that incident.

Senator RYAN: That would be handled by the protective-

Ms Leon: It would be handled by her close personal protection.

Senator RYAN: Minister, could you take on notice, because I assume you are unable to answer now, what communication there was between the Prime Minister's office and the Department of Parliamentary Services about that breach in security? I am not asking for the content of it, necessarily, but I would like to know.

Senator Chris Evans: Yes, I am just thinking it through. If it is actually something that is handled by the close personal security officers it would probably be done through the AFP rather than through the Prime Minister's office. I am happy to see whether the Prime Minister's office has anything to say that might assist you.

Senator RYAN: I would be surprised if staff members of the Prime Minister's office did not also have something to say to the Department of Parliamentary Services about that incident.

Senator Chris Evans: I will take it on notice, but I would just make the point that I suspect that if the personal protection people had concerns-I am sure they had concerns-they would have taken it up directly through their portfolio line of reporting I suppose. I am just trying to work out what that is.

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Answer:

The Agency Security Adviser from the Department has discussed operational security procedures with the Director of Security in the Department of Parliamentary Services.