

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: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: Sri Lankan High Commissioner

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question reference number: 39

Type of Question: FPA, P111

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RHIANNON: Could you also take on notice whether or not you were briefed by the AFP during the discussion of his appointment? Do you have any information about the appointment?

Ms Tsirbas: Yes, I do. I believe a series of questions-on notice and during Senate estimates-relating to the appointment have already been answered.

Senator RHIANNON: That is why I was now interested in building on some of those previous questions. Was PM&C briefed by DFAT or briefed by AFP?

Senator Chris Evans: The officer has taken the first question on notice. We will take the second question on notice as well.

Answer: PM&C received advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on 28 March 2011 regarding the High Commissioner's appointment. The department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) did not receive any advice from the AFP on the matter. Beyond this, as we have previously advised, Government policy is not to comment on the process of seeking and granting agrément.