

Cormann, Mathias (Senator)

From: Day, Bob (Private)
Sent: Tuesday, 29 December 2015 4:28 PM
To: Cormann, Mathias (Senator)
Subject: Electorate Office
Attachments: 29.12.15-Cormann_SMOS-EO.pdf



Dear Minister
Please see attached.
Kind regards
Bob Day

Senator Bob Day AO

Senator for South Australia

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29 December 2015

Dear Minister

I write concerning my electorate office.

I first wrote to Special Minister of State Michael Ronaldson in January 2014 (six months before taking up my seat) requesting to establish my office in a particularly location - Kent Town just 2km from the CBD and a very accessible area. Following this request I was told there was an existing lease on an office in a location particularly requested by former Senator Don Farrell (whom I replaced as a Senator for South Australia), and this lease was still on foot and would not expire until 30 June 2016. Given Senator Farrell's term ended on 30 June 2014, why the Department would sign a lease 2 years beyond a Senator's term is puzzling, especially considering the Department has surplus office space in the CPO building in the Adelaide CBD.

The Department informed me that I would have to move into Don Farrell's former office. Given its location I indicated in the strongest possible terms that I did not want to be in that location but wanted to be in Kent Town. For many months I could not get approval to move to Kent Town from either the Department or the SMOS so rather than move into former Senator Farrell's office I moved into the CPO. I persevered with my request and finally got approval to move to Kent Town subject to two conditions – that I would have to pay for any renovations myself to bring the office to government standards and secondly that the Department would not pay any rent for Kent Town until it had sub-let former Senator Farrell's old office. Given the price the Department was paying for Senator Farrell's office (around \$500 per sq metre), and the value of Kent Town was around \$300 per sq metre, I did not think it would take long for the Department to secure a tenant at around \$300 per sq m.

It is now one and half years since 1.7.14 and no tenant has been secured. Coming from a property background, I can only conclude that the Department is not at all interested in sub-letting Senator Farrell's old office and is happy to keep paying the rent there until June 2016 knowing it is not paying any rent for Kent Town. I spent nearly \$200,000 getting Kent Town up to standard (had the Department undertaken the work it would have been more than double that) and have been paying rent out of my salary since moving into the Kent Town office early this year.

I accept that I agreed to pay for the renovations myself and also accept that I agreed the Department would only start paying rent for Kent Town once it had sub-let Senator Farrell's old office, however I think it is totally unreasonable for the sub-let not to happen at all. At most, I expected the sub-let to take six months, a year would be way over the top; two years is ridiculous.

I would like to request that the Department pay rent for the Kent Town office starting 1.7.15 ie one year after my election.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely



Senator Bob Day AO
Senator for South Australia

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SENATOR THE HON MATHIAS CORMANN
Minister for Finance
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

REF: MS16-000009

Senator Bob Day AO
Senator for South Australia
77 Fullarton Road
KENT TOWN SA 5067

Dear Senator Day

Thank you for your letter of 29 December 2015 in relation to the arrangements for your electorate office at 77 Fullarton Road, Kent Town.

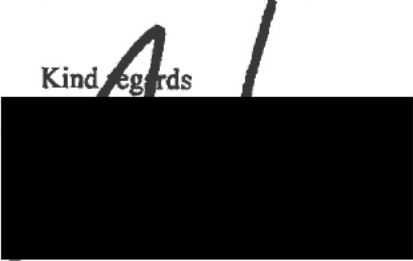
The Commonwealth is indeed required to provide you with a suitable Electorate Office.

I note that the lease at your Fullarton Road electorate office commenced on 1 July 2015 and therefore agree to commence the payment of rent for 77 Fullarton Road Kent Town from that date, **once satisfactory evidence of rental payments by you have been provided to Finance.**

I have asked that your Ministerial and Parliamentary Entitlements Manager, Mr Shane McGaughey contact you to discuss these arrangements.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Kind regards



Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

7 January 2016