



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Deputy Secretary
Integrity and International Group

20/924

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Clarification to Proof Hansard

I write to you concerning evidence provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Budget Estimates hearing on 21 October 2020.

I would like to provide further information to correct evidence I provided on engagement with former Prime Ministers about the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme (the Scheme).

On page 77 of the proof Hansard, in response to questions asked by the Chair of the Committee, Senator Amanda Stoker, I stated:

Ms Chidgey: We've also had engagement with Mr Rudd.

CHAIR: Is he the only former Prime Minister that you have been dealing with?

Ms Chidgey: Yes.

I would like to clarify that in addition to engagement with the Hon Tony Abbott and the Hon Kevin Rudd, the Attorney-General's Department had also communicated with the Hon Paul Keating about the Scheme.

The Secretary, Mr Moraitis, wrote to Mr Keating in May 2019 to alert him to the obligations of former Cabinet Ministers under the Scheme.

Mr Keating responded on 25 June 2019 to advise that he had been a member of the International Advisory Board to the China Development Bank, but this had now ceased.

On 4 July 2019, the Secretary wrote again to Mr Keating to confirm that no further action was necessary as a registrable arrangement was no longer in place.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Chidgey
17 November 2020