

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Mr Rudd – access to documents

Senator: Senator Dean Smith

Question reference number: 118

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Question:

Senator SMITH: So Mr Rudd has visited the offices of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet twice since he was Prime Minister—16 January and 6 February—to seek access to documents that are available under the archives legislation. Is that right?

Ms Kelly: Yes.

Senator SMITH: What documents did Mr Rudd seek access to or has he been given access to?

Ms Kelly: I do not have material in relation to the particulars of the documents here, but I can take that on notice.

Senator SMITH: If you could advise me on notice what documents Mr Rudd sought, what documents Mr Rudd sought but was not granted access to and what documents Mr Rudd sought and was granted access to, I would be most appreciative.

Answer:

In accordance with the special access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*, sub-section 56(2), former Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd sought and was granted access to Departmental records he saw or dealt with, or could reasonably be expected to have seen or dealt with, in the course of duties of the office of Prime Minister.