

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: State Coach Britannia

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 211

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

(a) Since 7 September 2013 has the Commonwealth received any requests for additional funding associated with the State Coach Britannia? If so, please provide details include the date/s and nature of the request/s.

(b) Has the Commonwealth met any costs associated with the State Coach Britannia in addition to the \$245,549 awarded by the Howard Government? If so, please provide details.

(c) Did the Howard Government award \$245,549 towards the cost of the State Coach Britannia on the understanding it was a private gift for The Queen's 80th birthday?

(d) Is the department aware of a report in the UK Telegraph on 4 June 2014 that the State Coach Britannia has been "purchased by the Royal Collection Trust"? (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/queen-elizabeth-II/10873294/Queens-Speech-a-timeless-new-coach-only-eight-years-too-late.html>)

(e) Would the sale of the coach be consistent with the terms of the Commonwealth's grant of \$245,549 of public money?

Answer:

(a) No.

(b) No. See also Senate Estimates Hansards for the following dates: 12 February 2007, 21 May 2007, 27 May 2008, 8 February 2010, 23 May 2011, 13 February 2012, 21 May 2012, 22 May 2012, 15 October 2012 and letters from the then Prime Ministers responding to letters from Mr Frecklington in 2009, 2010 and 2012 that were tabled in May 2012 (page 21 of the 22 May 2012 F&PA Hansard refers).

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes the Department is aware of the article.

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- (e) A financial contribution was paid to Mr Frecklington in 2006 towards construction costs incurred to that point in time. There were no forward conditions attached to this payment.