

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

Question: PM32a-b

Topic: Media Monitors - Removed articles

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Senator ABETZ-[a]I do not often rely on this, but they tell me that a particular article that was published on 1 February 2010, titled 'The reshuffle Rudd may have to have', which appeared in the Australian Financial Review, was mysteriously left out of the media clips on that day. I was wondering whether you can tell us, one, whether the media monitoring service that is engaged actually passed that article on to the Prime Minister's office?

Ms Beauchamp-I will have to take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ-Yes, on notice. [b]And, if they did, who within the Prime Minister's office took the decision to remove that article from all the other articles that would normally be disseminated? How common a practice is it in the Prime Minister's office to just pull those articles that may not necessarily be favourable?

Ms Beauchamp-I will take all that on notice[...]

Answer:

The Department provides an electronic media monitoring service for departmental officers and the Prime Minister's Office. The article on 1 February 2010 was available in the Prime Minister's Office folder.

On any given day, neither the Department nor the Prime Minister's Office limit the visibility of articles provided through the media monitoring service.