

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Australia Day Function - Ben Hubbard phone call

Senator: Senator Brandis

Question reference number: 4

Type of Question: FPA, P58, 13 February

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BRANDIS: Can you also confirm, please, that at 4.26 that afternoon Mr Hubbard telephoned Ms Credlin on her mobile phone and said words to this effect: "I am just following up to make sure Tony is okay." Can you confirm that Ms Credlin replied, "He is fine; that was quite a turn of events," and Mr Hubbard replied, "I read his transcript this morning; there was nothing in it." Can you confirm that that conversation took place at 4:26 on the 26th of January.

Senator Chris Evans: I can take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is advised there was a telephone conversation involving the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister and the Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Opposition on the afternoon of 26 January 2012. The Department is not privy to the content of the private communication.