

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: National security statement - Correction

Senator: Senator the Hon Ronaldson

Question reference number: 21

Type of Question: FPA, P104

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Dr McCarthy: I must apologise for that inaccuracy. There was an important caveat left off that. As soon as we realised that, we corrected the statement. That is a mistake that should have been corrected in the department and was not.

Senator RONALDSON: By whom?

Dr McCarthy: I take responsibility for that.

Senator RONALDSON: This went to the Defence minister presumably. It went to the Defence minister's office presumably.

Dr McCarthy: I do not have the details of the interactions between the Prime Minister's office and other ministers' offices in relation to this -

Senator RONALDSON: You are surely not suggesting that a statement like this would not be run past the Defence minister's office.

Dr McCarthy: As I said, Senator, I do not have the detail.

Senator RONALDSON: Are you going to take that on notice?

Dr McCarthy: I can.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) did not refer the statement to the Minister for Defence. As noted at the hearing on 11 February 2013, the Department accepts responsibility for the statement.