

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010**

**Question: PM30a**

**Topic: Deputy PM's Office - DPM's statements**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 67, 25 May**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator RONALDSON-Yes, I do. Minister, do you recall that on 3 February this year the Age ran an article under the heading 'Fitzgibbon's \$150,000 from developer'**

**...**

**Minister, are you also aware that the Deputy Prime Minister in a personal explanation on 3 February at 12.20 pm? Minister, in relation to Ms Gillard's claim in her personal statement that 'the government made appropriate checks and determined no further action was required,' could you please detail the nature, the focus and the scope of those checks?**

**Senator Ludwig-I am happy to. I will take that on notice and I will get to back to that committee.**

**Answer:** I am advised that the checks undertaken prior to the statement by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, were whether:

- there was any allegation of wrong doing – there was not
- there was any breach of the standards of ministerial ethics – there was not
- the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP denied any impropriety, which he did.