

**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: PM30e**

**Topic: Deputy PM's Office - FOI Request - DEEWR's rejection**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 68, 25 May**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator RONALDSON-Is it also true, as reported by the Age, that the rationale for DEEWR's rejection of this FOI request was that:**

**... records of correspondence between Ms Gillard's office and the law firm did not constitute an "official document of a minister" and were consequently not covered by the FOI Act.**

**Senator Ludwig-That may be a question that you might have to direct to either Slater and Gordon and/or the Deputy Prime Minister. If you are asking me, I will inquire in terms of PM&C and see if we have any information or, in my role, see if I can provide you with anything.**

**Answer:** I am advised that the FOI request referred to was considered to not be within the scope of the FOI Act on the basis that the documents as described by the request would not be 'official documents of a Minister' within the meaning of section 4 of the FOI Act.