

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: PM99

Topic: Parliament House Briefing Room- Crisis Co-ordination Centre

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

a) In answers to Questions on Notice the "PHBR will be located in the office space adjacent to the Members and Senators Library and Reading Room on the ground floor of the Ministerial Wing."

Answer: Correct

b) What is the budget for the development of PHBR? Is work proceeding to schedule and budget?

Answer: The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) received \$12 million over four years for the construction of the PHBR. AGD has advised that the construction of the PHBR is currently on budget.

Construction work began on 19 April 2010. A number of factors, including the need to minimise noise disruption to normal business at Parliament House, have caused some delays, but the PHBR is still scheduled for delivery in the second half of 2010.

c) How many staff occupy the PHBR?

Answer: No staff will be permanently located in the PHBR. Staff from PM&C will be responsible for its activation, access control, and general maintenance.

d) Will access to the PHBR be restricted?

Answer: Yes, as this is a secure facility.