

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

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: Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Australia - adviser to High Commissioner to UK

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question reference number: 26

Type of Question: FPA P6, 22 May 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RHIANNON: Has the Prime Minister been made aware that the defence adviser to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in London, Major Prasanna De Silva, is also returning to Sri Lanka? Has the Prime Minister been made aware that the Sri Lankan high commissioner was named in the Channel 4 UK documentary "Sri Lanka's killing fields" as having allegedly committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during the final stages of the civil war. Could you take that on notice, please?

Ms Tsirbas: Certainly

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has not provided briefing to the Prime Minister on Major Prasanna De Silva.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has not provided advice to the Prime Minister on the naming of the High Commissioner in "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields". He was not mentioned in the documentary.