

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: WikiLeaks

Senator: Senator Ludlam

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Question:

Senator LUDLAM: Does the department receive briefings on matters relating to WikiLeaks, Private Manning or Julian Assange from the US Ambassador based on Canberra?

Mr Sadleir: I personally have not received a briefing of that sort, but I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: If you did have that information at the table, I would ask you for dates and times and attendance lists and those sorts of things. If you could provide that in your answers, that would be much appreciated.

Mr Sadleir: Will do.

Answer:

In late 2010 senior PM&C officials had contact with the US Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Jeffrey Bleich, regarding WikiLeaks matters. There have been no briefings from Ambassador Bleich in relation to WikiLeaks since that time.