

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 - 23 Oct 2008



Question: PM6

Outcome 1, Output 5

Topic: VIP aircraft expenditure

Hansard Page: F&PA 48-49

Senator Ferguson asked: Can I make a suggestion: perhaps your department could consult with the Department of Defence and decide who should give us the costs and the cost recovery that is involved...

Senator Faulkner-Senator, I accept what you are saying. I know that these answers can be provided. I am not sure about the timing, because I believe it is done on an annualised basis and has been for very many years. But, in answer to the question you are asking, Senator Ferguson, I will provide a process answer to you, if you will take it on notice, and obviously point to this at the appropriate time when these matters are published by Defence. I am just going to check with the officials as to their understanding. I know it is a different department. Mr Mrdak has been able to help further. He believes that publication normally occurs in December of the calendar year.

Senator FERGUSON-So, of all the visits that are undertaken by VIP aircraft, they only produce an annual figure of expenditure.

Mr Leverett-That is my understanding...

Senator FERGUSON-Surely, if it is possible to provide an annual figure, the annual figure must be reached by adding up all of the sum of the parts...you should be able to provide us a figure that would tell us what the costs were for each particular trip.

Senator Faulkner-This has been asked, even quite recently, of the Department of Defence. Someone might care to ask them these same questions at the Foreign Affairs and Defence estimates committee later in the week, but I will at least provide you with a definitive process answer...

Answer:

The Department of Defence has advised that the additional costs for all flights from January to June 2008 will be published and tabled in *The Schedule of Special Purpose Flights* in December 2008.