

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-09 (October 2008)

Index to Questions on Notice (QON)

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Note: the FPA Committee resolved that agencies provide answers to Questions on Notice by Friday, 5 December 2008.

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments/answer received
PM1	PM&C	ABETZ	F&PA 25	<p>Senator ABETZ—...First of all, I refer you to the answer given to question PM8, a question by Senator Fielding. In the answer we were told:</p> <p>The manner in which successive governments have managed their priorities, including whether charter letters or other approaches are used, has changed from time to time.</p> <p>I was just wondering if you could tell us which governments in recent history have not used charter letters, other than the Rudd government...If it could be taken on notice and the committee could be provided with details as to what the exact arrangements were with the Fraser government, the Hawke government, the Keating government and the Howard government, that would be most instructive. I assume officers do not have that with them at the moment.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I am not sure that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet would necessarily have that information available, but what I am happy to do is certainly to ask them to check for you. Any information that we do have available and can assist you with, obviously, we will provide.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM2	PM&C	ABETZ	F&PA26	<p>Senator ABETZ...Just to make it perfectly clear what I am seeking: in PM24 I asked how long each one of those meetings was. I asked you to take that on notice. I also asked who was present at each meeting. 'I will ask the</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>Prime Minister if he cares to provide any further information,' was Senator Faulkner's response...So I am asking you, Minister, and the department to have another go and actually be responsive in detail to all the questions that were raised in PM23 and PM24. Will you do that for me, please?...</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I do not know whether the information that you are seeking is available...I am happy to check again, but I can assure you that considerable effort went into preparing the answer that you do have and the information that has been provided to you.</p>	See F&PA 26–28 for further discussion of the questions.
PM3	PM&C	ABETZ	F&PA 29	<p>Senator ABETZ.... Let us have the definition of what is meant by a 'media event' in relation to PM29 and what is understood by the Prime Minister's office by a 'press conference', and then let us know, in relation to all the dates outlined in PM52, whether a press conference was actually held.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Senator, you are right to say that I do not have that information to hand. That is one that I will need to take on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM4	PM&C	RONALDSON	F&PA 31–32	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Mr Mrdak, does Mr Stephens accompany Ms Rein on interstate or international travel?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—As the minister has outlined, Mr Stephens is an adviser to the Prime Minister and does on occasion accompany the Prime Minister when he travels. Yes, I am aware of that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Does he accompany Ms Rein when she is travelling independently?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—Not that I am aware of. But I am happy to seek further information in that regard.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Do you think that is something you need to take on notice? You do not have personal knowledge of whether someone is travelling with the Prime Minister's wife?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—I have no knowledge of that. I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08. Answer refers to PM31a and PM31b
PM5	PM&C	RONALDSON	F&PA41–42	<p>Senator RONALDSON—So how many times did the government staffing committee meet in relation to this matter to discuss the sanctions after receipt of the report of 24 July, Mr Mrdak?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—I am sorry, I do not have those details.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I do not have those details either obviously. But, as I have indicated, I am happy to outline the process for you.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I want to know what discussions took place in</p>	Answer received 5/12/08. Answer refers to PM32a.

				<p>relation to the sanctions and on what dates, following receipt of Mr Hamburger's sanctions report of 24 July. Did you meet at all?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I do not have that information, but I will see if I can find that detail.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Minister, you must remember whether the government staffing committee met to—</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—You have asked me for details of it and I do not want to make it up. The government staffing committee did meet. It did discuss these issues, but I do not actually have the dates before me. We will see what we can do on notice to find out the answer to your question.</p>	
PM6	PM&C	FERGUSON	F&PA 48-49	<p>Senator FERGUSON—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..</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator FERGUSON—So, of all the visits that are undertaken by VIP aircraft, they only produce an annual figure of expenditure.</p> <p>Mr Leverett—That is my understanding..</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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..</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM7	PM&C	FERGUSON	F&PA 50	<p>Senator FERGUSON—Could you find out for me how many people actually travelled on each of those planes—both the Prime Minister's plane and the other plane.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>Mr Leverett—I can tell you now that the Prime Minister’s plane was full on every sector of that trip.</p> <p>Senator FERGUSON—Twenty-six?</p> <p>Mr Leverett—I believe it was 24. In fact it was actually fewer than that because the RAAF require a number of seats in zone C of the aircraft. But I will give you the exact number of party as opposed to passengers, because there is a difference. I understand that there is a small RAAF component. I will give you both figures. For the media aircraft, I do not know the numbers but I will find out quickly for you and come back to you.</p>	
PM8	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 51	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I did get my records and indeed you made that reference directing me to the Department of Defence. The Department of Defence did transfer the question on 1 July to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration. In any case, it does not appear to have been answered. The bottom line is that, notwithstanding that the questions were raised at estimates and I went through the circuitous process of going through Defence for the purposes of PM&C, you did not actually answer the question for me...</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Did it go to ministerial staff travel?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—No, one question did, the one to the Department of Defence specifically about the Prime Minister’s travel.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Some of the elements of this of course are properly also handled by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. In the same spirit as I have indicated to Senator Ferguson, we will sort it through. It may be that some elements of the question or your question relate obviously to the Department of Defence.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM9	PM&C	FIFIELD	F&PA 53	<p>Senator FIFIELD—Senator Faulkner, is it possible to take on notice whether that was the advice from Mr Moran to the department, to ‘watch your language’? If that is true, it could be taken that that was encouraging staff to provide other than the full and frank advice which we know this government seeks.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I will in this circumstance take it on notice. Neither I nor officials, in this case, Mr Mrdak, are aware of the comments. In that circumstance I do not think we have any alternative but to take it on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM10	PM&C	RYAN	F&PA 56	<p>Senator RYAN—Presumably, if they are recruited from another branch of the public service, being state or Commonwealth, you would have information on where they came from to go through that merit selection process?</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>Mr Mrdak—Certainly. When I say the merit selection process, if people are being recruited into the department not from another agency, there would be some people who would transfer at level who may not have been through a full process—they transfer at level for particular skills—but in most situations they would go through that process. You are asking for details of the agencies from which they have come?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—If they transfer at level, is that only within the Australian Public Service and the ACT or does that apply also to the various states?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—No, it generally applies to the Australian public service.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—For appointments at that band and above that have been made since Mr Moran took up his position, is it possible to outline how many such officers have been appointed from within the state public services?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice.</p>	
PM11	PM&C	RYAN	F&PA 57	<p>Senator RYAN—I have a final question. Minister, it is probably more appropriate to start with you. Have you or anyone who has presented to us so far today and is likely to present to us later in the day had any media or presentation training or coaching this year from an external trainer?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Thank you for asking me that question, Senator. I thought it would be patently obvious that I have not had any media training—</p> <p>Senator RYAN—But you are very photogenic.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Senator Faulkner tends to give it. He is the instructor.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I can assure you that I have had no media training. I cannot speak for my colleagues. Let me check. We are not aware of any such training in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. But Mr Mrdak will check for all others except myself; I can be categoric.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM12	PM&C	CORMANN	F&PA 60–61	<p>Senator CORMANN...can I ask as a question on notice whether any PM&C official has participated in meetings with state and territory government officials at which the issue of flow-on implications for state and territory public hospitals was raised and any requirement for additional funding to compensate for the impact of the Medicare levy surcharge measure.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I will certainly take the question on notice for you. Whether we will be able to provide a very fulsome answer, I simply do not know. I have outlined to you some of the constraints under which we operate but I will certainly see what can be done to provide a response to that question on notice for you.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

PM13	PM&C	BOSWELL	F&PA 61	<p>Senator BOSWELL—The government has been approached by prominent Victorian church leaders, including the Archbishop of Melbourne, with concerns that the Victorian Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008 breaches the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Australia is a signatory. The leaders wrote to the Prime Minister asking that he act on the legal advice provided by former Federal Court justice Mr Neil Young QC and by human rights barrister Mr Peter Willis. Has there been a formal response from the Prime Minister to these church leaders?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Senator, I do not know—</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—Well the question was not asked to you. It was asked to the officials—</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—No, but it is directed through me—I assume the usual courtesy—so I am now checking for you. I am indicating to you that I do not know. I will now establish if any of the officials are able to assist you. Senator, I am sorry, officials do not know so we will need to check that for you and take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM14	PM&C	BOSWELL	F&PA 61	<p>Senator BOSWELL—I will ask a series of questions and you can take them on notice. Did the department consider the legal advice provided by Mr Neil Young and Mr Peter Willis that found the Victorian bill was inconsistent with the human rights obligations set out in the ICCPR on this issue of conscientious objectors? You cannot answer that one?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I suspect you are going to find, given the officials did not have any knowledge of the primary question you asked that it is going to be difficult to answer them.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM15	PM&C	BOSWELL	F&PA 61–62	<p>Senator BOSWELL—Has the department prepared or sought legal advice on this issue; and, if so, will the department release this advice? Has the Prime Minister's office taken steps to ensure that the Victorian legislation is consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Thank you, Senator. All we can do in this circumstance, because none of the officials nor I have knowledge of this, is take them on notice and provide responses.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM16	PM&C	BOYCE	F&PA 62	<p>Senator BOYCE—This is a couple of questions and I suspect I may not have much more success than Senator Boswell but I do not know where else to ask these questions. Senator Faulkner, I am sure that, like me, you receive quite a lot of correspondence from people about cult activity, with families being split apart by it...</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>Senator Faulkner—One thing I have always found with PM&C is that, if you take an issue to them, they will find the right place to go, but whether they are the right place is a very different issue. I do not know if Mr Mrdak can help us there.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—I am not familiar with representations or issues being raised in our portfolio but, if I can, I will take that on notice and come back to you about which portfolio within the Commonwealth it should be raised. It may well sit in the Attorney-General department. I will take that on notice and come back to you...In the first instance, I will endeavour, during the break for afternoon tea, to identify which area of the Commonwealth deals with these issues more regularly and try to get you that answer quickly. Subsequent to that, on notice, I will try to give you a more detailed answer in relation to how these questions are being dealt with.</p>	
PM17	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 62–63	<p>Mr Mrdak—Following that estimates hearing, we initiated—through the department’s audit committee, which I chair—an internal audit review of all of our 2020 contracts. That was undertaken by Acumen Alliance, our internal audit contractor—now renamed Oakton, following some recent corporate restructuring. That report was received in June this year and has been provided to the audit committee....</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Are we going to get a copy of this?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM18	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 63	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Mr Mrdak, I notice that those companies—the companies like Zeepod Productions—did the design work for logo changes. Could you take on notice whether they were on the previous government’s list or they have just now become a new provider?...</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—In relation to Zeepod, I will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM19	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 64	<p>Mr Mrdak—Mr Mulgan is in Australia as the Adelaide Thinker in Residence in 2008 and his availability in Australia for periods enabled us to access his expert skills. So we took advantage of him being in Australia for periods to actually draw on his expertise and knowledge. Hence, we put in place a direct-service agreement with him for that.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Has he produced anything since he started?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—He has provided advice to us in the department. He has met on a number of occasions with senior departmental officers and provided advice to us in relation to the establishment of the division.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Are you able to provide us with further details of that?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—If there is anything further I can add to that, I certainly will.</p>	
PM20	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 65	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Is his [Mr Heaney's] advice available?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—He provided advice to us in relation to options, yes.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I would be interested to see that.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM21	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	F&PA 65	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you go back to that exchange, please, and take on notice the actual cost that it takes on a monthly or bimonthly basis for this calculation to take place and for the reimbursement to occur.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—It would not be a large amount of resourcing in the sense that we have established a system. As I indicated, the Prime Minister announced earlier in the year that he reimburses 60 per cent of the salary costs, including on-costs and the like, and 100 per cent of any overtime or additional allowances. We work from the time sheets that are submitted and then calculate the amount of payment that is required to be reimbursed. I will take that on notice, but it is not a significant additional cost for the officers in our official establishment's area.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM22	PM&C	TROOD	F&PA 67	<p>Senator TROOD—Yes, I can appreciate that. I am grateful for that clarification. In relation to the forthcoming [Community Cabinet] meeting in Launceston, can you provide any information about its costs to date?</p> <p>Dr Southern—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have anything with me.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08. Answer refers to PM23
PM23	PM&C	TROOD	F&PA 68	<p>Senator TROOD—You have given me the aggregate figures in relation to all of these. I am sure you would need to do this on notice, but perhaps you could provide me with a breakdown of the costs in relation to each of the community cabinets—travel, accommodation, advertising et cetera.</p> <p>Dr Southern—Yes.</p> <p>Senator TROOD—And any costs that have been borne to date with regard to the Launceston meeting.</p> <p>Dr Southern—Yes, will do.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM24	PM&C	FIERRAVANTI-	F&PA 68	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Following on from that, looking at</p>	Answer received

		WELLS		<p>the venue costs, I assume at Penrith that the school billed you for usage of the facility. Is that the case?</p> <p>Dr Southern—I believe so. Just let me go back to our answer to that question.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—No, you have just set out ‘venue costs’ at \$2,199.</p> <p>Dr Southern—I would have to confirm that, but I am fairly confident that with each of the schools that we have used there have been costs associated with cleaning contracts and those sorts of things.</p>	5/12/08.
PM25	PM&C	RONALDSON	F&PA 71	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Will you take this on notice, Minister. Which departments actually had input into this financial stimulus package? I am interested to know, for example, whether Minister Plibersek’s department in relation to housing had any input to this. Why would you be pleading a change of system when it is quite clear that this is probably the most serious public policy decision that has been made for some period of time? And you are prevaricating about which departments actually had some input. I thought you would be bragging about the fact that a huge range of departments had input into this, rather than prevaricating and trying to avoid what is a very serious question.</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I am happy to take the question on notice, but I have indicated, Chair, to Senator Ronaldson that the change of approach that has been outlined in detail and earlier, while Senator Ronaldson was outside the room, in answer to questions—</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM26	PM&C	BROWN	F&PA 76	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—My information is the survey that was being done on the swift parrot on the mainland in winter, which was to establish its numbers, has been defunded; it is no longer being funded. Is that right or wrong?</p> <p>Dr Dickson—I do not know. I cannot answer that.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak—We will take that on notice, if that is okay. We will come back to you with a response as soon as possible.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM27	PM&C	BROWN	F&PA 78	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—I will just ask as a final despairing question on this issue: Forestry Tasmania has said that they will log as intended at the end of summer instead of now because there are birds nesting in a particular site in Wielangta. Last year or the year before, they actually stopped logging halfway through a coup because they found it was a nesting site for the birds. No doubt, every year, not only nesting sites but nesting birds and their young are</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>being destroyed as this species heads towards extinction by this clear fell and open logging process. Can you tell the committee of any accommodating factor under the regional forest agreement or under environmental law in this country which would permit the logging of one of the richest nesting sites for this bird in this coming summer, after the birds who have nested there have left, never again to return?</p> <p>Dr Dickson—If I can ask again: if you are happy for us to take on notice what action is being taken and the factors that are being looked at for the swift parrot, we can provide that.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—I am.</p>	
PM28	PM&C	BOYCE	F&PA 79	<p>Senator BOYCE—So what are the annual wages or salary for that secretariat [of the Social Inclusion Board]?</p> <p>Ms Patterson—I do not have a figure for you at the moment. I will just double-check.</p> <p>Ms Peake—We can certainly take that on notice for you.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM29	ANAO	RONALDSON	F&PA 100	<p>Senator RONALDSON—When were you first contacted in relation to this ad campaign?</p> <p>Mr Crossley—I would have to take that on notice. It was at the time that the guidelines were almost been finalised. I have not got the exact date, because it was going to be obvious that that campaign would be subject to the guidelines.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—So, I take it from that that you were actually contacted before the official release of the green paper. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr McPhee—We could perhaps take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM30a– PM30c	PM&C portfolio	BOSWELL	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM31a– PM31b	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM32a– PM32c	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM33a– PM33e	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08. PM33b refers to PM33a

PM34a	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM34b	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Information was provided to the committee that on 5/12/08 the information required to answer the question is not available. PM&C sought to provide an answer when the information is available.
PM34c	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM35a– PM35b	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM36a– PM36g	PM&C	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM37a– PM37d	ANAO	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08. On 9/12/08 a supplementary answer was received.
PM38a– PM38h	ANAO	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM39	PM&C	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM40a– PM40f	PM&C	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08. The answer to

					PM40f refers to PM40a
PM41a– PM41d	PM&C	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08. The answer to PM41b refers to PM41a
PM41e	PM&C	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Note: on 17/11/08 this question was transferred to the Dept. of Infrastructure.
PM42a– PM42b	PM&C	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08. The answer to PM42b refers to PM42a.
PM43	PM&C	SIEWERT	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM44a	PM&C	ABETZ	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM44b	PM&C and OOSGG	ABETZ	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08 (PM&C). Answer received 8/12/08 (OOSGG).
PM44c	OOSGG	ABETZ	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 8/12/08.
PM45	PM&C	BIRMINGHAM	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
PM46a– PM46c	PM&C	BARNETT	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08. The answer to

					PM46c refers to PM46b.
PM47	PM&C	WILLIAMS	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.

Written Questions On Notice

PM30a–PM&C (Boswell)

What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for every department, agency and program within this portfolio?

PM30b–PM&C (Boswell)

What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?

PM30c–PM&C (Boswell)

Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?

PM31a–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Has Mr Peter Stephens of the PMO ever travelled with Ms Rein when she travels independently of the Prime Minister? If so, on what dates, where were the destinations and what were the travel related expenses? (please itemise)

PM31b–PM&C (RONALDSON)

What are the travel related expenses of Mr. Stephens?

PM32a–PM&C (RONALDSON)

PM&C co-operation with CMAX investigation

How many times did the Government Staffing Committee meet after receipt of Mr Hamburger's sanctions recommendations on 24 July 2008? What were the dates of such meetings and who attended those meetings?

PM32b–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Please detail, in chronological order, every meeting, interview, phone call, email and discussion that has occurred between the Department of PM&C and the PMO or Senator Faulkner and or his office in relation to this issue. Please also detail the nature of each?

PM32c–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Please detail, in chronological order, every meeting, interview, phone call, email and discussion that has occurred between the Department of PM&C and the Deputy Prime Minister's office in relation to this issue. Please also detail the nature of each.

PM33a–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Suite MG-8 and Cabinet Suite MG-8

Please itemise and date any new assets that have been added to suite MG-8 including, but not limited to, scanners, fax machines, printers, digital cameras, lap tops, desktops, photocopiers, televisions, DVDs, DVD recorders, computer software since 1 December 2007?

PM33b–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Please itemise and date any new assets that have been added to Cabinet Suite MG-8 including, but not limited to, scanners, fax machines, printers, digital cameras, lap tops, desktops, photocopiers, televisions, DVDs, DVD recorders, computer software since 1 December 2007?

PM33c–PM&C (RONALDSON)

How many staff are located in the Cabinet Suite MG-8 area? That is, how many offices and workstations are located in that suite?

PM33d–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Has suite MG-8 been outfitted with plasma televisions since December 2007? If so, how many and in which particular offices?

PM33e–PM&C (RONALDSON)

How many Department of PM&C staff have been seconded or on placement in the Prime Minister's office but returned to the Department of PM&C this year?

PM34a–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can you please provide a list of all travel undertaken by the Prime Minister since November 25. Can an itemised list of all expenses incurred by the Prime Minister and each of those staff or officials who accompanied the Prime Minister. Please itemise by each trip and staff member or official?

PM34b–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can the committee be provided with a list of all personal staff who have travelled with the prime minister on each of his overseas trips, can this itemised list include airfares, car transports, travel related allowances, accommodation costs and mobile phone bills incurred whilst overseas?

PM34c–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Please itemise all dates, destinations, costs of Therese Rein when she travelled independently of the Prime Minister. Please also name the staffer that travelled with Therese Rein on these trips.

PM35a–PM&C (RONALDSON)

As per question PM31 of May 2008, can you provide the Committee with any additional asset items within the Prime Minister's Canberra, Brisbane CPO or Electorate Office?

PM35b–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Further to question PM53 of May 2008, can you please advise if there is any increase in estimated costs for staffing?

PM36a–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Prime Minister's official residences

Has there been any increase in the 7.4 staff at the Lodge and Kirribilli? And if there has been any increase in staffing allocation created, can the committee be provided with a job description of each.

PM36b–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can the Committee be provided with a full asset list of both Kirribilli and The Lodge?

PM36c–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can we be provided with a list of all assets owned by the PM&C that are located at either Kirribilli and The Lodge?

PM36d–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can the Committee be provided with a list of any asset purchases over say, \$1,000 at either Kirribilli or The Lodge since December 2007?

PM36e–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can the Committee be provided with a list of structural changes that have cost over say, \$1,000?

PM36f–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Can the Committee be provided with a breakdown of any IT costs associated with the Lodge and Kirribilli? Has any new IT infrastructure been completed or contracted to be done at either residence?

PM36g–PM&C (RONALDSON)

Please provide the committee with a calculation of the carbon emissions from both The Lodge and Kirribilli House so far this calendar year. Please breakdown the costs by residence.

PM37a–ANAO (RONALDSON)

CMAx investigation

Has any staffer, past or present, in the Department of PM&C, been interviewed by the Australian National Audit Office in relation to the awarding of the media management contract for the 2020 Summit to CMAX?

PM37b–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Has any staffer, past or present, in the PMO, been interviewed by the Australian National Audit Office in relation to the awarding of the media management contract for the 2020 Summit to CMAX? Which PMO staff?

PM37c–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Has the ANAO completed a draft report into this investigation? If yes: could it please be provided to the committee, If no: when does the ANAO expect to have one completed?

PM37d–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Will the ANAO provide a draft of the report to the Minister, PMO and or the Department prior to its release?

PM38a–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Government advertising guidelines

According to reports in the *Sunday Telegraph* on 19 October 2008, media space is being booked by the government for advertising for a new series of government ads. Have you as Auditor General been given any television advertisements or print or radio advertisements for approval apart from the Greenhouse Ads? That is, have you assessed any other government advertising campaigns?

If so, what was the nature of those ads?

PM38b–ANAO (RONALDSON)

When were you given those advertisements to assess?

PM38c–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Did you approve the certification of those advertisements?

PM38d–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Are you aware of any new government advertising programs about to commence apart from the Greenhouse advertisements that have already been to air?

If so, what is the nature of those advertisements?

PM38e–ANAO (RONALDSON)

When are they expected to go to air?

PM38f–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Are you aware of what the budget is for those advertisements?

PM38g–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Have you been provided any details surrounding an upcoming government advertising campaign regarding the government's \$10.4 billion stimulus package?

If so, what are they?

PM38h–ANAO (RONALDSON)

Are you aware of any details surrounding an upcoming government advertising campaign regarding the government's \$10.4 billion stimulus package?

If so, what are they?

PM39–PM&C (FIFIELD)

What scheduled meetings did the Prime Minister cancel on 28 May 2008 and 4 June 2008?

PM40a to PM40f–PM&C (FIFIELD)

I understand that in the month of May, Air Chief Marshal Houston and Mr Michael L'Estrange were due to meet the Prime Minister but were kept waiting for some time. This was reported in *The Australian* newspaper on 21 June 2008.

PM40a–PM&C (FIFIELD)

When were Air Chief Marshal Houston and Mr L'Estrange due to meet the Prime Minister?

PM40b–PM&C (FIFIELD)

When did they eventually get to meet with him?

PM40c–PM&C (FIFIELD)

What was the reason for the delay?

PM40d–PM&C (FIFIELD)

What steps did the Prime Minister take to apologise to the French ambassador for what was a significant diplomatic snub, in that by keeping Mr L'Estrange waiting he was forced to miss an important diplomatic engagement with the French which he was due to host?

PM40e–PM&C (FIFIELD)

When there was a delay, why were these gentleman not allowed to go back to their respective offices and come back at a re-scheduled time?

PM40f–PM&C (FIFIELD)

A spokesman for Mr Rudd was quoted in *The Weekend Australian* of 21 June 2008 confirming that Air Chief Marshal Houston and Mr L'Estrange were kept waiting for hours but that this was “*a normal part of government.*” Is this sort of conduct really “normal” for this government?

PM41a–PM&C (FIFIELD)

Who made the decision to announce, on 18 September 2008, that there would be the first meeting of the Australian Council of Local Governments on 28 November 2008?

PM41b–PM&C (FIFIELD)

When did the Prime Minister become aware that there were serious issues with this date for Victoria, given that all 79 Victorian Local Governments have an election on 29 November 2008?

PM41c–PM&C (FIFIELD)

What is the new date for the meeting?

PM41d–PM&C (FIFIELD)

When was the decision made to change the date?

PM41e–PM&C (FIFIELD)

Is there a budget for the meeting?

Note: on 17/11/08 this question was transferred to the Dept. of Infrastructure for an answer.

PM42a–PM&C (FIFIELD)

At any time in 2008, has the Prime Minister or his office been involved in the approval process for travel claims by executive level public servants?

PM42b–PM&C (FIFIELD)

When was this process for instituted and for what purpose?

PM43–PM&C–Social Inclusion Unit (SIEWERT)

How much funding has been provided by the department or any of its agencies to the following organisations for the financial years 2005/6, 2006/7 and 2007/8?

Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd;
Cape York Land Council;
Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership;
Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships;
Cape York Partnerships Pty Ltd;
Cape York Corporation Pty Ltd;
Cape York Financial Management Services Pty Ltd;
Cape York Indigenous Environment Foundation;
Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust

PM44a to PM44c–PM&C and OOSGG (ABETZ)

Mr Murtagh of the Office of the Official Secretary stated specifically that no new clothing had been provided to the Governor-General to date in answer to my question of 20 October 2008. In a letter received by the Finance and Public Administration Committee on 22 October 2008, Mr Mrdak stated that the Governor-General receives a one-off fitting-out (or clothing) allowance.

PM44a–PM&C (ABETZ)

Could the Department please specify the dollar value of this allowance?

PM44b–PM&C (ABETZ)

Could the Department please outline whether the provision of any military uniform for the Governor-General for official purposes is included in this allowance or whether that would be a separate allocation of funds?

PM44c–OOSGG (ABETZ)

Inform the committee whether a request has been made by the Governor-General for the provision of a military uniform?

PM45–PM&C (BIRMINGHAM)

Which towns in the Murray-Darling Basin, and on what dates, has the Prime Minister visited this calendar year?

PM46a to PM46c–PM&C (BARNETT)

The PFA seeks to replace the current National Police Medal with a new National Police Service Medal specifically for sworn members of Australia’s police forces.

PM46a–PM&C (BARNETT)

Could you please advise on the status of the National Police Service Medal?

PM46b–PM&C (BARNETT)

If no progress has been made, when does the Government anticipate research into these changes might begin?

PM46c–PM&C (BARNETT)

If progress has been made, how advanced are they?

PM47–PM&C (WILLIAMS)

Was the Prime Minister or his department involved in the application and approval of the funding for the purchase of Toorale Station under the Caring for our Country programme?