

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 3.1

Topic: Records for Commonwealth property

Senator: Ronaldson

Question reference number: F53

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 81, 16 October 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RONALDSON: You might need to take this on notice. In fact, I suspect you will. How long does the department keep records of any damage to Commonwealth property, whether office equipment or motor vehicles, by senators or members, either retiring or defeated? It could be senators at the end of their term. So that is either retired or defeated in relation to members or at the end of their term in relation to senators. How long do you keep those sorts of records for?

...

Senator RONALDSON: There is a sentencing file period but there are other circumstances where those records are kept for longer. Is it so?

Ms Mason: I believe that there is a normal sentencing of files, and I would wish to get this confirmed, of about five or seven years. But sometimes there are files that are likely to be required for a longer period for business purposes and those files may be retained for as long as they are required.

...

Senator RONALDSON: Would there be a record of the non-sentenced files?

Mr Tune: Yes, they would be on the files list.

Senator RONALDSON: Could you perhaps take that on notice for me as well?

Answer:

Records relating to Senators and Members' office equipment and motor vehicles are generally retained for seven years after the date of the last action. A record can be retained past its usual sentence date (i.e. beyond seven years) if there is a business need or if the National Archives of Australia imposes a disposal freeze on a class of records.

Yes, there is a record of files currently held in the Department.