

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Long review
Question: 163
Hansard reference F&PA p.50–51, 15 October 2012

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

Senator RONALDSON: ...Did the investigator make any note about inconsistencies that caused him concern?

Dr Heriot: I am sorry; I do not have that level of recollection. If you wish to ask me these questions, I am happy to answer them on another occasion, but I simply do not have—

Senator RONALDSON: With the greatest respect, these matters—and I do not remember you having notes, quite frankly, when this was discussed at the last hearing—

Dr Heriot: I assure you I did.

Senator RONALDSON: This is not a long time ago. You were asked a significant number of questions by Senator Faulkner. Would you table Mr Long's advice to you in relation to this which would indicate the inconsistencies and his views on this inconsistencies?

Dr Heriot: I need to go back and see what we have already provided the committee with.

Senator RONALDSON: You have not provided that.

Dr Heriot: Okay.

Senator FAULKNER: It would be useful to have the correspondence between DPS and CPM, DPS and Mr Long, and any minutes of any meetings that were held or documents that might outline the scope of inquiries. That would assist, wouldn't it, Senator Ronaldson?

Senator RONALDSON: We have a situation where we have an experienced company; presumably an experienced investigator; and Ms Heriot, who has advised the committee she has no investigative experience at all, but Ms Heriot has made a decision about inconsistencies which happened to remove two of the most serious breaches. I just want to get some indication of where Mr Long expressed a view that there were such significant inconsistencies that would allow Ms Heriot to come to the conclusion that she did. You will provide that information?

Dr Heriot: I will go through the files.

Answer

This matter was addressed by Mr Long at page 14 of his report, and by Dr Heriot at paragraphs 35–39 of her minute to Mr Alan Thompson of 23 January 2013. Both documents were provided to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee inquiry into the Performance of the Department of Parliamentary Services on 15 May 2012.