

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Security passes**

Question: **183**

Hansard Reference **pp 33, 56, 26 May 2014**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Senator WONG: How many inactive passes or passes that belong to people who are no longer employed here still subsist?

Mr Skill: I will see if I can find that detail for you.

Senator WONG: Do you track that?

Mr Skill: There is a process in place where people who leave that employment or leave the building have their pass suspended or terminated. So let me get the detail on that.

...

Senator WONG: So, you are not retrieving the passes.

Mr Skill: Where we can, and where they are offered, we do so. But we do not actively go out and chase those passes.

Senator WONG: So, how many non-retrieved passes are out there?

Mr Skill: I might have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: You do not know?

Mr Skill: No.

Senator WONG: So, you do not know how many people, like Senator Tillem, have a pass that technically is still active, because obviously they are issued for a year. He is obviously a senator now, so he does not need a pass. But you do not know how many—

Mr Skill: I cannot give you evidence here today that I can guarantee we have collected every pass or how many are on issue.

Answer

DPS records indicate that, 10,667 passes have expired, or been cancelled or suspended. The Department does not keep record of cancelled non-returned passes. Even if a pass is retained, it does not permit access to the building.

Processes are in place to cancel the passes and access privileges of staff and building occupants at the time they cease employment with the agency that sponsored the pass.