

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 34**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:**

**Senator BRANDIS:** I just want to take you to one other aspect of this. You said it [contract with Zapruder to begin production on AFP program] started four years ago. It is true, is it not, that the program about close personal protection—

**Mr Negus:** Sorry, Senator, I am just going to try to get the date right. I have been using four years as a general term. We entered into the agreement with Andrew Denton's company in July 2008.

There were some discussions before that, so I did not want to have you looking at this as being—

**Senator BRANDIS:** That is fine, thank you. That is what witnesses should do. They should revisit in order to clarify and give more particulars about their earlier answers—that is good. So it was July 2008. When did these discussions begin? Are you able to tell us that?

**Mr Negus:** They were between Commissioner Keelty and Mr Denton, so I do not have any clarity on that.

**Senator BRANDIS:** Was it before Christmas 2007?

**Mr Negus:** I do not know.

**Senator BRANDIS:** You do not know. Could you take that on notice—when the initial discussions began—please?

**Mr Wood:** It was certainly more than six months before we signed the contract in July 2008.

....

**Senator FURNER:** No doubt some discussion would have been held prior to that filming commencing. If you go to the website of the Channel 9 site for this series, it indicates that discussions took place a year before July 2008, putting that in July 2007, when the previous government was in place. Is that the case?

**Mr Negus:** I have no reason to question that. I think that would be right.

....

**Senator FURNER:** .... Going back to when these arrangements were put in place—and it is probably a matter you need to take on notice—I would like to clarify the dates of the first meetings with Commissioner Keelty and the then minister of the previous government to discuss the formation of this particular show.

**Mr Negus:** We will take that on notice.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Commissioner Keelty met Andrew Denton on 17 April 2007 to discuss the proposed TV show.

Commissioner Keelty regularly met and briefed the then Minister for Justice and Customs, David Johnston. The AFP formally advised the Minister for Justice and Customs about the proposal for a TV series on 22 October 2007.