

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 39**

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

**Senator LUDLAM:** Did the AFP do anything in relation to the death threat that was posted online against Daniel Assange, Julian's brother? First of all, are you aware of that event? I beg your pardon—his son.

**Mr Drennan:** No, I am not aware of one in his relation to his son.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Are you not aware that a death threat was made?

**Mr Drennan:** No.

**Mr Negus:** We might have to take that on notice. From the table here, no-one is aware of that. I suspect that, if it had been reported to the AFP, we certainly would have been briefed on it, but it may well have gone to state police or territory police. Do you know where Mr Assange's son lives?

**Senator LUDLAM:** No, I do not. My understanding is that there was an inquiry that was made. I believe he lives in Melbourne and that an inquiry was made of the AFP, and my information is that that inquiry was referred to the Attorney's office. I would be very interested to know what the thought processes were behind that.

**Mr Negus:** It sounds a very unusual pathway, so—

**Senator LUDLAM:** It does.

**Mr Negus:** we will try to find something out while we are at the table.

....

**Senator LUDLAM:** I do not want to take us down the path of hypothesis, so what I would seek to confirm from you is, first of all, if and when you received notification, if and when you referred it to the Attorney-General's office and if and when it was referred to a relevant state police, presumably the Victorian police. If there is any other information that you could provide to that, that would be great.

**Mr Drennan:** Certainly.

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

On 6 December 2010, the AFP was contacted by a journalist who provided what was alleged to be a copy of an online blog in which comments were made about Daniel Assange. The blog did not include direct threats against Daniel Assange.

The AFP provided advice to the journalist that if a person is concerned about their personal safety they should report to their relevant State and Territory Police.

The AFP took no action in relation to the matter.