

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 14

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you for explaining that. I understand there are two documents marked 'Highly protected' relating to the case of three Solomon Island MPs who claimed the AFP fabricated charges against them for inciting the 2006 post-election riot. Can these two documents be released?

Mr Prendergast: I would need to consider that. They are marked 'Highly protected'. I am aware of the case you were speaking of, but I do not have the latest situation on that issue. I believe it was back in the Solomon Islands court recently. I will take that question on notice.

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Senator RHIANNON: So you are happy to take that on notice and come back to us if those documents can be released?

Mr Prendergast: That is correct.

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

No. These documents cannot be released as they contain highly sensitive, confidential information regarding Participating Police Force operations and witnesses. Information of this type must be protected to ensure the integrity of law enforcement. Releasing sensitive police operational information would jeopardise RAMSI's ability to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force in fighting crime in Solomon Islands and may jeopardise the safety of individuals.