



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Ms Lyn Beverly  
Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverly,

I wish to correct my evidence to the 2020-21 Additional Estimates hearing of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee on 24 March 2021. Relevantly, I wish to correct both the Letter of Correction that I provided to the Committee on 11 May 2021 and the Department's response to tabled Question on Notice 236.

The total number of security incidents stated in my Letter of Correction for evidence I provided both at the hearing and in response to tabled Question on Notice 236 was incorrect. This was due to a transcription error relating to one incident. I subsequently directed an independent review of the Defence security incident database and have confidence that the revised number of security incidents is definitive and can be relied upon by the Parliament.

In response to a question during the hearing from Senator the Hon Penny Wong (page 22 of the Hansard), I stated:

*"The third question was about the number of breaches in ministerial offices in that calendar year. There was one incident reported in calendar year 2019, and it was this incident."*

I wish to correct my evidence in the Hansard to the following:

*"In calendar year 2019, there were six breaches across all ministerial offices in the Defence portfolio reported to Defence."*

The error in the number of security incidents was carried through, in part, to the tabled response to Question on Notice 236 (Senator the Hon Penny Wong). In response to this question, I wish to correct paragraph two and add a new paragraph three. The revised response to the question in full is:

- 1. From 2 March 2019 to 31 December 2020 there have been 12 breaches across all ministerial offices.*

2. *The statement by Ms Katherine Jones "The third question was about the number of breaches in ministerial offices in that calendar year. There was one incident reported in calendar year 2019, and it was this incident" was incorrect and should have stated, "In calendar year 2019, there were six breaches across all ministerial offices in the Defence portfolio reported to Defence."*
3. *For calendar year 2020, there have been eight breaches across all ministerial offices in the Defence portfolio.*

Yours sincerely

Katherine Jones, PSM  
Associate Secretary

31 May 2021



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

R1-5-Associate Secretary Suite  
PO Box 7902  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

PH: 02 6285 7911

EC21-001598

Ms Lyn Beverly  
Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley,

I wish to correct the evidence that I provided to the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee's examination of the Department of Defence at the Additional Budget Estimates hearing on Wednesday 24 March 2021.

In relation to questions asked by Senator the Hon Penny Wong regarding security breaches since 2 March 2019 (page 22 of the Hansard) I stated:

*"The third question was about the number of breaches in ministerial offices in that calendar year. There was one incident reported in calendar year 2019, and it was this incident."*

I wish to correct my evidence in the following manner:

*"In calendar year 2019, there were five breaches across all ministerial offices in the Defence portfolio."*

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Jones, PSM  
Associate Secretary

11 May 2021

**Question on notice no. 236**

**Portfolio question number: 239**

**2020-21 Additional estimates**

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio**

**Senator the Hon. Penny Wong:** asked the Department of Defence on 24 March 2021

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Senator WONG: How many breaches within those three categories have you been notified of in the offices of Defence portfolio ministers since 2 March 2019?

Ms Jones: I don't have that statistic on me. We can obtain it.

...

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Ms Jones: The third question was about the number of breaches in ministerial offices in that calendar year. There was one incident reported in calendar year 2019, and it was this incident.

Senator WONG: Anything since?

Ms Jones: We're just checking on that. My understanding is, no, but we just want to make sure that we're certain of that.

**Answer —**

Answer attached

## Defence Portfolio

# SENATE ESTIMATES QUESTION

(Question No. 239)

Senator Penny Wong asked The Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 27 April 2021:

Senator WONG: How many breaches within those three categories have you been notified of in the offices of Defence portfolio ministers since 2 March 2019?

Ms Jones: I don't have that statistic on me. We can obtain it.

Ms Jones: The third question was about the number of breaches in ministerial offices in that calendar year. There was one incident reported in calendar year 2019, and it was this incident.

Senator WONG: Anything since?

Ms Jones: We're just checking on that. My understanding is, no, but we just want to make sure that we're certain of that.

Senator Penny Wong – The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. From 2 March 2019 to 31 December 2020 there has been 12 breaches across all ministerial offices.
2. The statement by Ms Katherine Jones "The third question was about the number of breaches in ministerial offices in that calendar year. There was one incident reported in calendar year 2019, and it was this incident" was incorrect and should have stated "In calendar year 2019 there were five breaches across all ministerial offices. This statement will be corrected under a Letter of Correction.
3. For calendar year 2020 there has been nine breaches across all ministerial offices.