

On 7 November 2024, the following exchange took place at an Estimates hearing of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee (*Hansard*, p.53):

**Senator FAWCETT:** We obviously don't write to them. Do they ever write to us? Have we received correspondence from the Taliban requesting any action by the Australian government?

**Ms Robinson:** In relation to who represents Afghanistan in the UN, that is a matter for a body called the Credentials Committee in the UN. It meets twice a year to assess who should be in the seat and it's obviously been a sticking point in relation to Afghanistan, as it has been on a couple of other countries. In relation to correspondence, I'll hand over to my colleagues.

**Ms Adams:** On the question of correspondence from Taliban to the Australian government, I'm not aware of any direct correspondence.

**Senator FAWCETT:** Ms Chan, you look as though you might have something to add.

**Ms Chan:** I was just going to say that the Taliban did announce on X on 30 July that it would no longer recognise the diplomatic and consular services of 14 diplomatic missions, including in Australia. That's an issue we are considering very closely in terms of the practical and legal implications of that, including for the Afghan community here in Australia. It's a very complicated issue.