



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

Opening statement – Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Earlier this afternoon I provided a letter to the Committee containing information on data searches authorised or undertaken by the department to assist the fact-finding investigation undertaken by Dr Fiona Roughley SC about an Incentive to Retire payment made to a former Deputy Secretary.

In that letter, I also provided the answers that I could, to three questions taken on notice during the Committee's hearing last Friday about the data searches authorised or undertaken to support Dr Roughley's investigation.

In my letter I noted that I had sought advice from the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) about whether the search terms provided to support Dr Roughley's investigation could be disclosed to the Committee.

Subsequent to the dispatch of my letter, the NACC has advised that it is of the view that the disclosure, by DPS, of some of the search terms used to identify data relevant to Dr Roughley's fact-finding investigation would not prejudice the NACC investigation, provided that it was also made clear to the Committee that the terms used are relevant to Dr Roughley's investigation and not to the related NACC investigation.

The NACC has further advised that it would be concerned if the names of DPS employees (with the exception of the then Secretary and the then Deputy Secretary) were included in the search terms disclosed to the Committee as this may prejudice its investigation.

Accordingly, I provide the following document which sets out the search terms provided to DPS ICT on 21 June 2024 and 22 August 2024.

The search terms that identify DPS employees (other than the then Secretary and the then Deputy Secretary) and an APS employee are not included.

I, and the Senior Executives of the Department of Parliamentary Services, are available to answer questions.

Jaala Hinchcliffe
Secretary

4 November 2025