



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2022-23  
Thursday, 31 March 2022  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.02am until 9.02pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Home Affairs portfolio including the Australian Federal Police; Australian Security Intelligence Organisation; Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and Australian Institute of Criminology; Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre; Office of the Special Investigator; and the Department of Home Affairs for cross-portfolio, corporate and general matters and Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- protection provided by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for candidates during the upcoming federal election campaign;
- provisions made in the 2022-23 Budget for new surveillance powers for the AFP;
- seizures of Russian assets following the invasion of Ukraine;
- AFP Operation Pike – investigation into the fire at Old Parliament House;
- involvement of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre in the enforcement of sanctions against Russian oligarchs;
- potential benefits of implementing tranche two anti-money laundering reforms;
- general operation of the Office of the Special Investigator (OSI), as well as changes following the Brereton inquiry;
- effect of the security situation in Afghanistan on the functioning and evidence gathering capability of the OSI;
- refugee resettlement agreement between Australia and New Zealand;
- staffing levels of the Department of Home Affairs;
- dissemination of religious and ideological extremism, in addition to QAnon conspiracy theories, via social media;
- education programs that provide individuals and small to medium sized enterprises with knowledge about their cybersecurity vulnerabilities;
- Safer Communities Grant program;
- emergency management in relation to the recent floods and the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*;
- background and security checks for employees at critical transport and freight nodes;
- support for Ukrainian nationals arriving in Australia; and
- visas and support for Afghan nationals arriving in Australia.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Monday, 4 April in the Main Committee Room, for examination of the Home Affairs and Attorney General's portfolios.