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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's
Engagement in Afghanistan

QoN Number: 001

Subject: AFP Members that served in Afghanistan that may have taken their own lives

Asked by: Senator Jacqui Lambie

Question:

Senator LAMBIE: Can you tell me whether any of those 140 members who served over there have taken their lives?

Answer:

The AFP has no record of any serving members previously deployed to Afghanistan having taken their lives.

The AFP only maintains health records for former members that are related to the administration of AFP organisational health services. These records do not indicate any suicides of former members previously deployed to Afghanistan.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's Engagement in Afghanistan

QoN Number: 002

Subject: Australian embassy in Afghanistan closure and AFP knowledge of it

Asked by: Senator Jacqui Lambie

Question:

Senator LAMBIE: What about the support we had from the Afghanistan National Police? What effect does that have on our operations?

Mr McCartney: We no longer have that support. As I stated in my opening statement, we have an officer, and we will increase it to two officers in Islamabad, in Pakistan, and we will use it as a base in terms of assessing, from an AFP perspective, the threat from Afghanistan.

Senator LAMBIE: What effect did closing the embassy in Kabul have on your operations? When were you actually told? When was the AFP alerted that they were closing down the embassy?

Mr McCartney: We were notified before we were consulted on it. I don't have the specific date. I'm happy to take it on notice.

Senator LAMBIE: If I can have those times and dates you were consulted on that, that will be fabulous.

Mr McCartney: I'm happy to do that, Senator.

Senator LAMBIE: Go on.

Mr McCartney: I think it's fair to say we had used the embassy in Afghanistan in terms of visits from Pakistan to assist with some of our inquiries, so it has had a potential impact. It did have a potential impact at the time.

Answer:

AFP was consulted on 3 May 2021.

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