



**FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

8 October 2020

Mr Rob Stefanic
Secretary
Department of Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Stefanic

I write regarding the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee's upcoming inquiry into the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS).

It is likely that during the course of its inquiry the Committee will receive submissions and obtain evidence from the Department's employees and contractors.

I know that from your many appearances before Senate Estimates and your other interactions with parliamentary committees that you and your senior colleagues are very familiar with the processes involved, so the purpose of this letter is simply to reiterate them for completeness.

As you are aware, witnesses before Senate committees have certain rights and responsibilities as set out in Senate Brief No.13. This includes the protection of parliamentary privilege. Any DPS employees or contractors wanting to familiarise themselves with this can find them at: https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Senate/Powers_practice_n_procedures/Senate_Briefs/Brief13

The committee encourages any person who believes they have useful information to share as part of this inquiry to come forward, and will respect requests for confidentiality it receives.

Given the broad ranging terms of reference that the Senate has referred the committee for this inquiry, for the purposes of assisting DPS to prepare a submission I have asked individual committee members to advise the secretariat of any particular areas of interest they would like DPS to address in its submission. I will convey any such requests to you when they have been received.

Kind regards

Senator James Paterson
Chair, Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee