

SENATE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Australian Federal Police

Inquiry into the Operation and Management of the Department of Parliamentary Services

Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 01

Question:

Senator AYRES: What my question was, is there an investigation into the actions of DPS staff, or minister officers, in the days and weeks following the alleged rape?

Ms Drennan: I am not able to comment in relation to aspects of the investigation in relation to the alleged sexual assault that occurred in 2019.

And I am not aware of any of the details in relation to that investigation.

Senator AYRES: Could you perhaps take that last question of mine on notice and see to what extent the AFP is able to answer that question? If there are any issues that are in your direct knowledge?

Ms Drennan: I can take that question on notice. Yes.

Answer:

The AFP has provided all information it is in a position to disclose about the allegation of sexual assault at Parliament House, in response to questions posed at Senate Estimates.

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Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 02

Question:

Senator KITCHING: In the MOU is there an expiry date or is it a sort of a termless agreement? I mean I cannot imagine it would be, because it is an MOU but is there an expiry date to that?

And if you—I do not know whether you are able to table that document as it stands. But if you could, that would be helpful.

Ms Drennan: Yes. I mean the MOU is current. And so there is no expiry date.

Answer:

The MoU is a classified document and is not for public release.

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Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 03

Question:

Senator KITCHING: Could I ask is the use of force MOU under review?

Ms Drennan: It is part of the JSM.

Senator KITCHING: Does that MOU contain an expiry date?

Ms Drennan: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that documentation.

Answer:

There is no expiry date, however the document is reviewed annually.

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Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 04

Question:

Senator KITCHING: Could I also ask you was the use of force MOU reviewed, when was it last reviewed? How often should the use of force MOU be reviewed in your view? And in your view, are the terms of the use of force MOU appropriate or do they also need to be updated?

...

Ms Drennan: —I will have to take those on notice.

Answer:

The document is reviewed annually. There have been no changes since 2018.

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Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 05

Question:

Ms Drennan: There is not a formal mechanism to do a review in any timeframe and that. But the joint security model is under review currently.

Senator KITCHING: Okay. So when did that start? The review?

Ms Drennan: I cannot give you to official date. But the meetings between AFP and DPS commenced earlier this year.

Answer:

The review commenced on 16 February 2021.

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Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 06

Question:

Senator KITCHING: Is it—so I just want to ask you about the operational security and response arrangements, MOU, between the AFP and DPS, and that was discussed in recent Estimates. In your submission, you indicated that the AFP is currently renegotiating the terms of this MOU with DPS. At whose request was the renegotiation?

Ms Drennan: I do not know. I would have to go back and look at some documentation in relation to the discussions. And that certainly—when I started in my role, which was in March 2020, and that, shortly after my discussions with my staff identified that there were aspects of the arrangements that we felt could be considered and updated. And I know I had some discussions with DPS. But I am not quite sure of the dates. I would have to check that.

Senator KITCHING: If you could, that would be very helpful. Thank you.

Answer:

The AFP and DPS jointly agreed to commence the review. Senior Executive from both organisations then arranged for their staff to work together to undertake the review, culminating in the establishment of the DPS/AFP working group.

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Questions on Notice (QoN) 18 June 2021

AFP QoN Number: 07

Question:

Senator KITCHING: I will give you the date—the AFP confirmed on 23 May 2018, in Senate Estimates, that it learned of this incident from media reports. So it was that they—it would have been that day, I think, but around—certainly in that group of Estimates that that evidence was given by the AFP. And I am just—they also went on to say that the AFP and the department, or parliamentary services, had worked on our operating procedures and improved those communications.

So maybe if you could take on notice which operating procedures were worked on? Were all of the recommended revisions made by the AFP adopted promptly by DPS? How were improved communications addressed by the AFP following this incident? Were all recommended communication improvements adopted promptly by DPS?

Are you—and if you are aware of any incidents or certainly your officers are aware of any incidents since the November 2017 white powder incident, which were not reported to the AFP by DPS in a timely manner, giving, you know, giving rise to, you know, a question around the operating procedures? Are you aware of any instructions or directions issued by DPS to its officers to not cooperate with the AFP?

...

I am just not sure whether you would be able to disclose it, but if there are reports by building occupants that relate to concerns around DPS? And if you are not able to give details, just the number of any of those incidents?

So, you know, where building occupants might say to the AFP, this is not—you know, something is not working or if they express concerns about DPS, if you are able to give us an outline of those incidents? What type of incidents they were? And if you are not able to do that, just the number of any reports that the AFP has received?

Ms Drennan: Okay, I would have to take that on notice—

Answer:

The AFP is unable to comment on the details of operational procedures and practices.

A suite of policies and procedures were reviewed, updated, and then finalised on 10 October 2018.

The AFP is not aware of any white powder incidents not being reported in a timely manner or any instructions by DPS to not cooperate with Police.

The AFP has been unable to identify any record of concerns in relation to DPS, including any received by AFP from building occupants.