

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

QoN 016 – Hearing 15 November 2021

Topic: Personnel security

Senator Eric Abetz

Question

Senator ABETZ: As you moved further out from the embassy, such as with roadblocks, were some of those personnel at the roadblocks provided with an ID card as an assurance that they were authorised to be at the roadblock?

Ms Perera: I might have to take that question on notice in terms of what ID was provided to them and in which instances they displayed that ID, which would go directly to their personal security.

Senator ABETZ: You can take that on notice, thank you.

Answer

The private security company employees covering the road checkpoints at the outermost perimeter of the Australian Embassy Kabul were provided with identification cards produced by the Embassy. The identification cards did not denote they were employees of DFAT. The cards were in the care and stewardship of the private security company supervisors at the road checkpoints. The supervisors were usually Australian or British citizens employed by the commercial private security company. The cards were issued to each security company employee at the beginning of each shift and returned to the security company supervisor at the end of the shift. For security reasons, the identification cards were not displayed but were available for presentation on demand, where circumstances required, including to verify that their presence at checkpoints was legitimate.