

**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Senate Select Committee  
Foreign Interference through Social Media

**30 July 2021**

**QoN Number: 02**

**Subject:** Terms of Reference for the Electoral Integrity Assurance Task Force (EIAT)

**Asked by:** Jenny McAllister

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** Finally, there's some indication that there may be a set of terms of reference for the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce. Have you, the department, a copy of those?

**Mr Hallinan:** I certainly don't have them before me, but I understand there are terms of reference. My understanding is that those terms of reference are classified. They're also materials which belong really to the AEC and the Department of Finance, I would contend, as the agencies who are the co-chairs of that construct.

**CHAIR:** Right. But the department has seen them.

**Mr Hallinan:** I have not seen them personally, but I would be very surprised if we hadn't. I'm very happy to take that on notice for you.

**CHAIR:** I think some confirmation about whether or not they are in the possession of the department and whether the relevant individuals who participate in the task force have ever seen them would be a useful piece of information for committee, if you would take that on notice please.

**Mr Hallinan:** Very happy to.

**Answer:**

The Department of Home Affairs has a copy of the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT) Terms of Reference (ToR). Departmental staff who participate regularly in the EIAT have seen the ToR.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

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Senate Select Committee  
Foreign Interference through Social Media

**30 July 2021**

**QoN Number: 03**

**Subject:** Pegasus Report and Leaked Phone Numbers

**Asked by:** Jenny McAllister

**Question:**

CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Van. We will shortly go to Twitter. I want to ask one last, and topical, question. There has obviously been quite an amount of media coverage about the Pegasus report and the list of leaked telephone numbers which are reportedly being targeted by a range of actors. Has Home Affairs checked the leaked database to see if it includes any Australians?

Mr Hansford: I don't want to mislead the committee, so we'll take that on notice.

**Answer:**

No. The Department has not had access to nor checked the database.