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Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson
Chair
Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: FADT.SEN@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the correspondence from the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade dated 17 November 2025, and the subsequent email of 4 February 2026, inviting the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to provide a submission to the *Inquiry into the Effectiveness of Sanctions against the Russian Federation*. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) works closely with Australian Government partners, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), to ensure effective implementation of the sanctions regime.

The AFP, alongside the Australian Border Force (ABF), conducts criminal investigations against alleged breaches of the *Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011* (Cth) and/or the *Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011* (Cth). Breaching Australia's sanctions laws can be a serious criminal offence. Penalties range from substantial fines up to and including 2,500 penalty units or if the transaction of funds is the conduct amounting to the contravention, three times the value of the transaction and or up to 10 years imprisonment for individuals.

In investigating serious, complex and politically sensitive breaches of Australia's sanctions regime, the AFP works closely with domestic and international partners to share intelligence, leverage specialist capability and coordinate operational activity. Additionally, under Australia's sanctions regime, the AFP may receive notifications, requests for advice and otherwise can support the Australian Sanctions Office in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in reviewing assets owned or controlled by sanctioned individuals or entities, including those pertaining to the Russian Federation. To do this, the AFP has a range of law enforcement tools and mechanisms to target and address individuals and entities subject to sanctions, including to identify assets and undertake anticorruption investigations and activities, in close collaboration with our domestic and international partners.

Also as part of Australia's thematic sanctions regime, the AFP has supported partner agencies in the sanctioning of five international cybercriminals under the *Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011* (Cth). Cyber sanctions have proven to be an invaluable tool for the disruption of cybercriminals who reside outside the jurisdictional limits of Australia's law enforcement agencies, or our international partners, significantly damaging their criminal standing, financial and travel capabilities. Unlike a country-specific autonomous sanctions regime, a thematic autonomous sanctions regime applies to sanctionable conduct wherever it occurs in the world (outside Australia).

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The AFP has not directed sanctions against the Russian Federation or its official representatives and comment on assessments or reports on the effectiveness of sanctions measures would be best provided through the Australian Sanctions Office in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Consistent with the AFPs earlier advice, the AFP politely declines the invitation to provide a submission to this inquiry.

The AFP remains willing to support future parliamentary inquiries and stands ready to assist the Committee in the performance of its functions.

Yours sincerely,



Ian McCartney APM
Deputy Commissioner Crime

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