

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Review of the listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a state sponsor of terrorism under the Criminal Code

26 February 2026

**QoN Number: 1**

**Subject: Circumstances around gift receipt**

**Asked by:** Susan McDonald

**Question:**

**Senator McDONALD:** I might come back to that. I want to ask about Home Affairs accepting gifts from the Iranian regime. I want to ask why Home Affairs officials accepted two bottles of Yves Saint Laurent perfume, worth \$378, from Iranian diplomats, given the regime's status as a hostile actor condemned by this government for human rights abuses and orchestrating antisemitic attacks on Australian soil.

**Ms Spencer:** Senator, I don't have the date or the details of the incident you're referring to, but what I would say is that it is important to maintain diplomatic relations even where we aren't in agreement with the other state. There are elements of that that may be uncomfortable but are important so we can continue to have dialogue.

**Senator McDONALD:** Okay. So we've declared that the IRGC is a state sponsor of terrorism, and we've expelled the ambassador, but it's still okay to accept gifts from them. You will have to walk me through this, because I can't understand that.

**Mr Hansford:** I think that the comments we said before about the actions that ASIO investigated and the government then publicly outlined in August last year were a tipping point in the relationship with Iran given that, as you rightly point out, we expelled the Iranian ambassador and launched this new regime, and now the government's listed the organisation, IRGC. Prior to that, of course, Australia had diplomatic relations with the government of Iran, and it had a range of different meetings with Iranian officials as part of regular government interactions. We'll take the specific gift on notice about who received it, the circumstances in which they received it and why, if that's helpful for you. Neither of us received that gift, but it is usual and declared when, as Ms Spencer said, you do engage diplomatically with counterparts, even where there are disagreements. So that, I think, is the trajectory of both the relationship and the practice of officials.

**Senator McDONALD:** Thank you for taking that on notice. I would ask who exactly and what level that person or those people were that accepted that gift.

**Mr Hansford:** Certainly, Senator.

***Answer:***

Two APS level Removals officers.

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**QoN Number: 2**

**Subject: Security risk assessment of gifts**

**Asked by:** Susan McDonald

**Question:**

I would also ask if the department's conducted a security risk assessment to see if that gift formed part of a vector for compromise or surveillance in that relationship?

**Answer:**

Standard processes for receipt and declaration of gifts were followed.

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**QoN Number: 3**

**Subject: New department policy on receiving gifts**

**Asked by:** Susan McDonald

**Question:**

I would ask if the department has a new policy, given the certain circumstances have changed, whether or not there's a department policy around accepting gifts from Iranian diplomats now?

**Answer:**

Gifts received by departmental officials are managed in accordance with the *Accountable Authority Instructions*, which was last reviewed in November 2025 and the department's *Gifts and Benefits Policy*, last reviewed in October 2025.