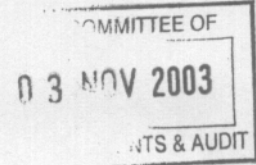




Australian Government
Australian Customs Service



Customs House
5 Constitution Avenue
Canberra ACT 2601

Inquiry Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Inquiry into the Management and Integrity of Electronic Information
in the Commonwealth
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Luttrell,

I am writing to provide additional information to the JCPAA following the 17 October 2003 hearing of the. The information includes responses to questions taken on notice, confirmation of the reduced classification of the submission dated 12 September 2003, a minor correction to evidence and notification of additional computer thefts not previously reported to the Inquiry.

Questions taken on Notice:

1. Senator Lundy asked for the date that the AFP advised Customs about the desktop computers, referring to those stolen on 27 August 2003. Customs became aware of the additional theft via a facsimile from AFP on 10 October 2003. This was clarified by telephone on the same day.
2. Ms Grierson asked the date of the last audit of the EDS contract or the assets on that contract. Customs participates in the EDS audit process. The last EDS audit of assets on the Customs Account commenced in July 2003 and concluded in October.

Confirmation of reduced classification of submission dated 12 September 2003:

Customs classified this submission 'In-Confidence' because of the delicate stage of the investigation into the server theft at the time of submission. It is now appropriate to review that classification and reclassify it 'Unclassified'.

Correction to Evidence:

On page PA 381 of the Proof Committee Hansard, Mr Woodward states 'Yes a battery charger', this should be a 'battery pack' referring to a laptop computer battery.

Additional Computer Thefts:

In July 1999 two EDS laptop computers were stolen from the EDS Client Server Group in Allara House, Canberra. These were not Customs computers but were on Customs premises. The matter was reported by EDS Security to the police but the computers were not recovered.

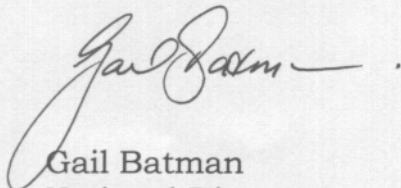
In May 2000 an EDS laptop was stolen from level 1 of Allara House, Canberra. Again this was not a Customs computer but was on Customs premises. The matter was reported by EDS security and the property was not recovered.

Both these thefts occurred prior to the commissioning of Customs incident report management system and were stored as hard copy reports. They appear to have been overlooked during the first manual search of hard copy incident reports. As part of its review of security the report archives were revisited and these additional thefts were identified.

In September 2002 an unserviceable desktop computer at the Clyde Mail Exchange was allegedly removed by the EDS contractor sent to replace it, but was not returned to EDS. AFP is aware of this matter and the equipment was not recovered.

I apologise that these incidents were overlooked in the original report provided to the Committee.

Yours Sincerely



Gail Batman
National Director
Border Intelligence and Passengers

31 October 2003