

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: Australian Federal Police

Question No. SBE16/017

Senator McKim asked the following question at the hearing on 17 October 2016:

Senator McKIM: Finally, have any of the complaints been laid against officers at the rank of superintendent or higher? And, if so, what became of those complaints and the relevant staff members?

Mr Colvin: I do not have personal knowledge of every matter, and that is for good reason, because there needs to be a level of trust in terms of Safe Place. I draw no distinction between complaints against myself or complaints against the junior members, so I would expect that there will be a range. The report clearly indicates that there was a deficit of trust between the rank and file and the senior executives—superintendent and above—so we would have to expect that there will be complaints against senior members, but it is very early days.

Senator McKIM: Could I ask that you take on notice the number of complaints against senior members and, to the extent that you are able to, inform the committee of the conclusion or otherwise of those complaints, and specifically what happened to the relevant staff.

Mr Colvin: Absolutely, Senator. I think that is a worthwhile statistic for us to provide. In terms of senior members, I will define that as being superintendent and above.

Senator McKIM: Thank you, I appreciate that.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Since the commencement of AFP Safe Place on 22 August 2016, there have been a total of 29 initial referrals received about AFP senior members. It is not appropriate to comment any further as these matters are ongoing.