

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

Program: Australian Federal Police

Question No. SBE16/015

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

Senator McKIM: Thank you. I want to ask about the war tourism of former MP Wyatt Roy. That is obviously a matter that has been reported quite broadly in the media. Has that matter been referred to the AFP?

Mr Colvin: No, but we are very conscious that it was a high-profile matter and we did our own due diligence to satisfy ourselves. But, no, we do not have a current open investigation in relation to that.

Senator McKIM: During that due diligence process, did you form a view as to whether Mr Roy may have entered or remained in a declared area under section 119.2 of the Criminal Code Act?

Mr Colvin: Based on the public reporting, we did form a conclusion that we did not believe that any offences had been committed. I guess I should leave commentary about the appropriateness of the activity to the government, and they have made comment on it, but we have no active investigation in relation to his movements.

Senator McKIM: Did you interview Mr Roy as part of your investigations?

Mr Colvin: I would have to take that on notice. We did not have an investigation.

Senator McKIM: I am sorry; I have misrepresented you and I apologise for that. What was the nature of the work that the AFP did in relation to this?

Mr Colvin: We reviewed what was publicly known about his travel and satisfied ourselves as to whether we felt that there was a need for us to investigate or to delve further to satisfy ourselves as to whether we believed offences had been committed or not. I do not know whether Mr Roy has returned to the country. I am not sure.

Mr Phelan: I have to take on notice whether or not he was spoken to, but it is not dissimilar to a number of other matters that have happened before when we have had journalists go overseas into theatre.

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

The AFP is aware of media reporting from September and October 2016 alleging that former Federal Assistant Minister Wyatt Roy was recently caught up in a frontline confrontation between Islamic State and Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraq.

As at 17 October 2016, the AFP has not spoken to Mr Roy about the allegations.