

Question on notice no. 127

Portfolio question number: OSE23-127

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator James Paterson: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 23 October 2023—

Please list the government entities that have been impacted by the data breach.

a. Please provide detail on the nature of the data stolen from these government entities

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2023**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 1.3: Cyber Security

OSE23-127 - HWL Ebsworth Cyber Breach - Government Entities Impacted

Senator James Paterson asked:

Please list the government entities that have been impacted by the data breach.

a. Please provide detail on the nature of the data stolen from these government entities

Answer:

As at 20 October 2023, 62 Australian Government entities were impacted by the HWL Ebsworth cyber incident.

- On 18 September 2023, the National Cyber Security Coordinator publicly stated that 65 Australian Government agencies were impacted by the HWL Ebsworth incident.
- Following further consultation, some entities were identified as not being separate entities, but parts of other Australian Government entities (e.g. part of a Department).
- The Defence Portfolio is listed as an entity because the Department of Defence procures legal services on behalf of itself and some portfolio agencies.

The Australian Government entities impacted by the HWL Ebsworth cyber incident are:

1. Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission
2. AgriFutures Australia
3. Airservices Australia
4. Australian Broadcasting Corporation
5. Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
6. Australian Communications and Media Authority
7. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
8. Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
9. Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
10. Australian Digital Health Agency
11. Australian Electoral Commission
12. Australian Federal Police
13. Australian Financial Security Authority
14. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
15. Australian National University
16. Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
17. Australian Postal Corporation
18. Australian Securities and Investment Commission
19. Australian Taxation Office

20. Civil Aviation Safety Authority
21. Comcare
22. Commonwealth Grants Commission
23. CSIRO
24. Defence Housing Australia
25. Defence Portfolio
26. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
27. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
28. Department of Education
29. Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
30. Department of Finance
31. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
32. Department of Health and Aged Care
33. Department of Home Affairs
34. Department of Industry, Science and Resources
35. Department of Infrastructure
36. Department of Parliamentary Services
37. Department of Social Services
38. Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
39. Department of The Treasury
40. Department of Veterans Affairs
41. Digital Transformation Agency
42. Export Finance Australia
43. Fair Work Ombudsman
44. Geoscience Australia
45. Grains Research and Development Corporation
46. Hearing Australia
47. IP Australia
48. National Disability Insurance Agency
49. National Gallery of Australia
50. National Indigenous Australians Agency
51. National Transport Commission
52. NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
53. Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility
54. Office of Chemical Safety (AICIS)
55. Office of Parliamentary Counsel
56. Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
57. Organ and Tissue Authority
58. Regional Investment Corporation
59. Reserve Bank of Australia
60. Services Australia
61. Torres Strait Regional Authority
62. WSA Co Limited

Inclusion on the list does not imply equal impact across these entities. Varying degrees of impact were observed, in both volume and sensitivity of records exposed. Some Australian Government entities are still working with HWL Ebsworth to understand the impact to their organisations' information.

The data affected in the breach is a matter of legal privilege and as such the Department of Home Affairs is unable to comment directly on the nature of the stolen data. However, the breach exposed a range of sensitive information to varying degrees, which included:

- legal advice provided to government entities;
- personal Identifiable Information (PII) relating to employees or clients of government entities, including information contained in credentials and other documents, and other sensitive personal information relating to individuals;
- vulnerable persons information, including information relating to people with a disability, victims of crime, and medical information relating to specific legal matters;
- government information, including potentially sensitive details of issues relating to national security and law enforcement, and litigation matters including employment and immigration decisions; and
- corporate information, including client, contract, and project information.