

Question on notice no. 116

Portfolio question number: 439

2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure and Regional Development Portfolio

Senator Barry O'Sullivan: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 27 October 2017—

CHAIR: I'm not done. If you'd like some names, Dr Aleck: the Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Canavan, Mr Perrett, Mr McCormack and Mr Buchholz were there, and I'll have some more for you in the fullness of time. My question to you is did your investigators even interview the operator of the drone? **Dr Aleck:** Yes. **CHAIR:** Did they ask him who else was present or what numbers were present? **Dr Aleck:** I'll take that question on notice. I assume they conducted a normal investigation, which would have involved questions of that.

Answer —

In speaking with Mr Ashby about his operation of a drone at Parliament House on 21 June 2017, the CASA Investigator did not ask Mr Ashby how many people he (Mr Ashby) believed were present at the time, or the identity of any of those individuals who were present.

However, on 18 October 2017, the CASA Investigator spoke to Mr Andy Turnbull (the event organiser) by telephone. Mr Turnbull said the number of people present at the event on 21 June 2017 was estimated to have been 50 or 60 persons.