

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 50**

**Program 2.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 28/10/2016**

**Topic: Missing Tom Roberts Coin – National Collections**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

1. What information is now available as to the whereabouts of the priceless coin and handwritten note that once belonged to acclaimed Australian artist Tom Roberts that was allegedly handed to Prime Minister Turnbull's then arts, communications and intellectual property advisor at the official opening of the National Gallery of Australia's major retrospective exhibition on 2 December 2015 for safe keeping?
2. Who in the Department of Communications and the Arts and/or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is taking responsibility for investigating the loss of the coin? What is the process of the investigation? What is the timeline?

**Answer:**

The Department of Communications and the Arts has not had any direct role or knowledge of the events surrounding the loss of the Tom Roberts coin.

It has been publicly reported that the Australian Federal Police commenced an investigation into the reported loss of the coin, with the Australian Federal Police concluding that no further action will be taken. Further questions about the investigation should be directed to the Australian Federal Police.