

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Consultation on changes to security arrangements**

Question: **22**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

How have building occupants and, where relevant, their workplace representatives, been consulted on changed security arrangements in Parliament House including the introduction of armed patrols?

Answer

The Department of Parliamentary Services is not responsible for consultation on armed patrols or lockdown procedures; this is a matter for the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The Department of Parliamentary Services does (following consultation and with agreement from the Presiding Officers and the Australian Federal Police) assist in the development and articulation of messaging with building occupants regarding security arrangements in the building.

This messaging has and will continue to be provided through a number of different forums, including:

- All Building Occupant Emails regarding changes in security arrangements including the security environment, pass issue rules and the like;
- Presiding Officer Briefings (including presentations from AFP and DPS) to building occupants, staff and senior stakeholders in the building regarding the security environment and some of the mitigations that may be put in place was conducted on 24 September 2014;
- Advice from the offices of the Serjeant-at-Arms and Usher of the Black Rod at the request of the AFP regarding new security arrangements such as Lockdown, new arrangements for media at the Senate Wing and Ministerial Entrances and commencement of Foot Patrols by the AFP;
- Individual briefings to Senators and Members, their staff and other building occupants on security arrangements upon request and provided by the Australian Federal Police and Department of Parliamentary Services Security staff; and
- Discussions with external providers such as Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the childcare centre, media and IHG regarding security arrangements in the building which may impact on normal operations.