Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Request to view CCTV footage

Question: 172

Hansard Reference p 71; 8 February 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

Senator WONG: Well, if they asked for approval to get approval from the President, why did nothing happen?

Ms Croke: That I am not sure of—as to why that did not happen and the investigator concluded his report without getting that footage. I am not sure why that happened.

Senator WONG: He concluded on the basis of the answer you gave me. It is all written in the passive, but no-one made a request despite his or her request to seek approval to, in fact, seek approval. You cannot tell me why?

Ms Croke: I would have to look into that, but no. At this stage I cannot tell you why, but no request was made to the Presiding Officers for access.

Answer

As noted in the response to Question No. 20 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing of October 2015, a request was made internally from HR to the then Assistant Director, Security Support to prepare a formal request to the Presiding Officers seeking approval for the external investigator to view the CCTV footage. This request was not actioned by the Assistant Director, Security Support, who has since left the Department. The request was not followed up, and the investigator completed his report after viewing footage provided by the media company.