

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Georgiou Review**

Question: **179**

Written **Senator Bernardi**

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

Noting that Ms Croke did take a few questions on notice during the 8 February hearings regarding this topic, please find further questions below.

Contract Notice CN3062382 on AusTender details a contract from DPS to the Georgiou Family Trust, which I assume is for the undertaking of the ‘Georgiou review’.

The procurement method was listed as ‘limited tender’.

1. What is the process behind a ‘limited tender’ procurement?
2. Which staff within DPS were involved in the tender process for the contract (e.g. providing advice, consultation etc)?
3. Under your operating policies, who must be consulted when Security Branch conducts tendering and contracting?
4. Who had the final authority to sign off on awarding the contract to Mr Georgiou?
5. What was the rationale for selecting Mr Georgiou?
6. How many applications did DPS receive for the tender?

In DPS’ answer to Question on Notice 65, DPS stated that Mr Georgiou was the lead on this review, and that he reported to the Director of Security Operations.

7. Were Mr Georgiou and the Director of Security Operations known to each other prior to Mr Georgiou being contracted for this review of DPS security branch?
8. If they were known to each other, did the Director of Security Operations provide a conflict of interest declaration in relation to Mr Georgiou?
 - a. If so, what was the date on the declaration? If not, has any action been taken against the Director and is the Director in breach of the DPS Code of Conduct or any other DPS policy?

When I asked for a copy of the report of the Georgiou review (see Question on Notice 65, October 2015 Estimates), DPS said:

“The Georgiou Report is both commercially and security operations sensitive, as it contains details of security operations at Parliament House.”

The contract (CN3062382) details state that there was no confidentiality applied to the outputs (i.e. reports) of this particular contract.

9. Given that there appears to be no confidentiality restraints on the outputs of this contract based on the contract details, on what basis is DPS claiming that the committee can’t see this report?
10. Which staff members within DPS (and the Security branch in particular) have seen the report?
11. If a redacted version of the report could be made available to the committee, please provide it.
12. The DPS Secretary is now investigating the process for commissioning the Georgiou Report and any potential conflict of interest (see DPS Secretary letter to the Committee, 18 February 2016). Given this, and the fact that the new PSS PSL3 employment model is based on the Georgiou review, will this impact on the rollout of the PSS PSL3 employment model in any way?

Answer

The DPS Secretary provided an undertaking to the Committee on 18 February 2016 that a full investigation regarding the details surrounding the commissioning of the Georgiou Review would occur. The investigation is currently in progress. Responses to these questions would pre-empt the formal outcomes of the process. It is anticipated that the investigation will shed light on most concerns.