

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Inadvertent disclosure of mobile telephone numbers**

Question: **100**

Written **Senator Farrell**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

With reference to the inadvertent disclosure of mobile telephone numbers of many parliamentarians and their staff published in the Parliamentarians' Mobile and Telecommunications and Data Services Expenditure reports:

- a) Prior to the breach occurring, what processes were in place within the Department of Parliamentary Services to ensure the security of data and privacy of senators, members and their staff was maintained?
- b) What changes will be made to these processes as a result of the breach?

Answer

- a) Previous processes involved rigorous visual inspection of every individual file by at least two ICT staff before they were released to ensure that no private information was included in the reports. Reports were loaded to a test server and review by ICT Executive before being released on the public website.
- b) The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) has implemented additional checks to examine the report files to determine what 'non visible' data and metadata could be extracted before they are published to the APH website. DPS are also reviewing the mandatory reporting requirements to ensure only information that needs to be published is released into the public domain. By ensuring that the minimum mandatory requirements are being used as the basis of reporting may reduce the need to redact information and lessen the future likelihood of inadvertently releasing private information.