

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **New parking arrangements**

Question: **85**

Written **Senator Wong**

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

With reference to the Department of Parliamentary Services Information Circular “West Block car park access” of 3 February 2017:

1. Can you outline how the additional parking arrangements in the West Block car park have been working so far during the first three sitting weeks of operation?
2. What has the take up been by pass holders?
3. Has there been a noticeable improvement to parking conditions at Parliament House, particularly in the visitors’ car park?
4. How will the Department of Parliamentary Services monitor the effect of the West Block arrangements on parking at Parliament House?
5. Do parliamentary security officers patrol the West Block car park?
6. Are any arrangements in place for passholders who wish to be escorted to their vehicle after dark?
7. Is the Parliament paying a fee to the National Capital Authority or another body for exclusive use of this car park in sitting weeks?

Answer

1. The West Block car park provides APH pass holders with an additional 369 car parking spaces for use during Parliamentary sitting days.
2. Patronage has steadily increased since the original Information Circular was distributed and then followed by further circulars. An average of approximately 135 vehicles per sitting day used the car park during March 2017, with the highest number of vehicles recorded on one day being 155.
3. In light of positive feedback received by users and a reduction in complaints regarding availability, DPS believes that there has been a noticeable improvement in the parking conditions. Positive feedback has been most notably received from passholders with children in care or school and part-time staff who are unable to enter the private car parks sufficiently early to secure a space. Based on anecdotal information, it is believed that this has relieved some pressure on the public car park.
4. DPS continues to monitor the usage of the West Block car park during parliamentary sitting periods by conducting counts in the morning after the peak entry period and in the early afternoon.
5. Parliamentary security officers do not patrol the West Block car park.
6. There are no arrangements in place for pass holders who wish to be escorted to their vehicle after dark. DPS is currently working with the National Capital Authority to upgrade lighting and install CCTV surveillance in the area.
7. No.