

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **System fault in division bells**

Question: **87**

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 “Emergency testing of division bells this morning” of 8 November 2016:

What was the nature and cause of fault that necessitated rectification and testing of the division bells?

Answer

A “system fault” condition was detected within one of the components of the Emergency Warning Information System (EWIS).

This impacted component provides the routing capability of a signal to multiple outputs (speakers) and enables public announcements to be made by the Switchboard and Visitor Services.

The “system fault” was only impacting on the transmission of PA announcements to particular areas the building. This fault did not impact on the ability for any building wide emergency announcements to be made from the Parliamentary Security Operations Room (if needed).

A reboot of this component was required to address the system fault condition.

Although this particular fault was not related to Division Bells, as the EWIS also provided this functionality, the testing of the Division Bells was undertaken to ensure that there was no adverse impact due to the reboot.

The EWIS system is reaching end of life and is planned to be replaced within the next 12 months. With many systems of this type reboots are required from time to time in order to maintain optimal operation. Regular reboots, testing and maintenance cycles are conducted for the EWIS outside sitting periods. In this instance the fault was unexpected and a reboot was required to clear the error condition.