

**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: **90**

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) When was the President of the Senate first informed of the breach?
- b) When was the Speaker of the House of Representatives first informed of the breach?

Answer

- a) The Office of the President of the Senate was notified within 30 minutes of DPS becoming aware of the data spill. This was at approximately 12.50pm on Monday 20 March 2017.
- b) The principle of independence of each House of the Australian Parliament asserts that each functions as a distinct, independent unit within the framework of the Constitution. As the subject matter of this question relates to Members of the House of Representatives or functions of the House and is the responsibility of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, it should be referred to the Speaker for a response.