

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Timeline Clarification**

Question: **11**

Hansard Reference: **p 44, 22 May 2017**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Senator BERNARDI: I can refer you to your time line: in answer to question on notice 38, if you would like to have a look at that, it says the incident was referred to HR by security branch on 28 July 2016. You stand by that evidence?

Mr Cooper: I believe that is the case, Senator.

Senator BERNARDI: So would anyone have contacted HR prior to that in respect of that?

Mr Cooper: I do not know, Senator.

Senator BERNARDI: Really? So no-one would have sent you an email on 4 October, stating that they had contacted HR on 30 June?

Mr Cooper: If that is the case, that is not in this time—

Senator BERNARDI: No, I know it is not, but the DPS has been asked to provide a time line about the incidents that occurred. The information I have been given is that it was referred to HR, or HR was contacted about it, on 28 July, and yet I am suggesting to you that someone maintains they contacted HR before that day.

Mr Cooper: Who was that?

Senator BERNARDI: Do you really want me to refer the name?

Mr Cooper: I cannot answer your question without having the detail.

Senator BERNARDI: Okay. In an email and time line that was sent to you and Mr Giddings on 4 October 2016, HR was contacted on 30 June 2016, and sought advice from Graeme Henderson. Now, I am loath to give you the email that was sent to you, but I am sure you could get it.

Mr Cooper: I will have to revisit the time line. It may be that that email did not add anything further to the time line—it looks like an error from what you are telling me.

Senator BERNARDI: Yes. Perhaps you can have a look at it, but I would suggest it was sent by the Assistant Director, Security Operations.

Mr Cooper: I will take that on notice, Senator.

Senator BERNARDI: Thank you.

Answer

On 30 June 2016, a general inquiry was raised with HR about how to respond to the complainant. HR responded that it was not possible for Security to advise the complainant how the matter would be dealt with until the witness to the incident had been spoken to. At this point, the matter was being dealt with by Security. The matter was referred to HR to deal with the complaint on 28 July 2016.