

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 268**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:**

1. Was the minister on leave at any point during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014)? If so:
  - a. Please table a schedule of the ministers leave. Please include:
    - i. The dates the minister was on leave.
    - ii. The dates the minister was out of the country (if applicable).
  - b. Who was acting in the minister's place?
    - i. What date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place?
    - ii. What was the process for selecting this person?
    - iii. Who was involved in making this decision?
  - c. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the minister during this time? If so:
    - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
    - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and the department during this time.
    - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the minister?
    - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the minister but were unable?
  - d. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting minister during this time? If so:
    - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
    - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the acting minister and the department during this time.
    - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting minister?
    - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting minister but were unable?
    - v. but were unable?
  - e. Did the department contact the Minister or acting minister during this time? If so:
    - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
    - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

This is not a matter for the Australian Federal Police.