

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. AE16/033

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Mr Colvin, you will be aware of the discussion that occurred in the Finance and Public Administration Committee yesterday when the Department of Parliamentary Services was appearing?

Mr Colvin: No, I am not.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Can I then ask you this on notice: a number of security incidents were canvassed, so I want to give the AFP the opportunity to respond to those issues as well given your role with the parliament.

Mr Colvin: I am happy to take that on notice, but if you can give us some context of the security incidents we may know something of them.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I think there were three particular cases canvassed. There was one about someone gaining access without a pass, there was one about someone riding shotgun of the back of another car into the building, and I cannot quite recall the third case. But as I said, given the AFP's role in the security in the building, I thought it was appropriate you have an opportunity to address those matters.

Mr Colvin: They do not ring a bell to me. We will take them on notice. As I said, there is a security framework that includes a security committee that has different agencies concerned. Things such as access without a pass may or may not be reported to us. It may just be dealt with by the Department of Parliamentary Services, but we can have a look at it.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: In part, the reason that I raise this with you and encourage you to have a look at the Hansard when it is available is that part of that discussion was about the role of the security board, how effectively it may be functioning and how effectively advice might be getting to the Presiding Officers on particular incidents. I thought that would be relevant to bring to your attention.

Mr Colvin: That is relevant, and we will have a look at what was said.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It may well be that, on looking at it, you feel there are some further recommendations to progress about how the security board is functioning.

Mr Colvin: Absolutely. We will look at that.

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

In relation to security issues, in particular the incident which occurred on 25 March 2015 in the House of Representatives (HoR) Wing, AFP was advised on the day that it occurred. Information was provided to the AFP by Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) in the form of a Security Incident Report and also through verbal briefings. AFP and DPS provided details of the incident to the office of Serjeant-at-Arms (SAA) on the afternoon of 25 March 2015.

Estimates transcript refers to four reported incidents from DPS in the APH car parks including:

- two cases of damage to a vehicle (HoR Carpark);
- a bus damaging the exit boom gate in the Public Carpark; and
- an incident of tailgating.

AFP were advised of the above Security Incidents by DPS in the form of Security Incident Reports and/or verbal briefings at the time of the incidents or shortly thereafter (it is standard

practice for DPS and AFP to share information on security incidents on the day of occurrence). These incidents are briefed to representatives from the offices of the SAA and Usher of the Black Rod (UBR) either as a time critical security notification for significant incidents (verbal/via email) or as part of standard weekly security briefings for minor incidents.

The process for managing and reporting security incidents at APH is working effectively. Development and review of security management and incident reporting is ongoing between AFP and DPS in an effort to continuously engage more closely and refine processes through lessons learned.

From a security management framework perspective, AFP is well represented at APH.

- AFP has permanent representation on the SMB.
- AFP holds the position of Chair of the Incident Response and Planning Committee (IPARC), which is responsible for advising the SMB in relation to security operations at APH. IPARC is held approximately 6 weekly.
- AFP chairs the Joint Management Group (JMG) which is a weekly security forum with representation from office of SAA, UBR, DPS, Department of Finance, and AFP.
- The AFP has no recommendations regarding changes to the function of the SMB at this time.