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27 May 2014

Senator Ian Macdonald  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to clarify the responses made by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) before the Committee on 26 May 2014 in relation to questions asked by Senator the Hon Joseph Ludwig.

Senator Ludwig sought confirmation as to who made the decision that the Prime Minister would not attend an event at Deakin University. The responses made by the AFP to Senator Ludwig's questions were based on internal briefings provided by the Protection function. Subsequently, the issue has been raised again before the Committee during the evidence provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at today's hearing. As such, the AFP has sought clarification from the Protection officer involved, who has advised that he did recommend to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) that due to security concerns the Prime Minister should not attend the event at Deakin University.

As such, I am seeking a correction to our response made on page 28 of the Proof Committee Hansard dated Monday 26 May 2014, to reflect the fact that the AFP did advise the PMO that the Prime Minister should not attend the event at Deakin University due to security concerns.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please feel free to contact me directly on (02) 6131 5605.

Yours faithfully

P T Drennan APM  
Deputy Commissioner National Security