

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 3**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. BE15/048**

**Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015**

**Senator RHIANNON:** It would be wonderful if you could say now what areas you are working on to improve, or do you need to take that on notice?

**Mr Colvin:** There are a range of things that we are doing, but your question is quite specific to the most recent report, which was only, I think, at the end of last year. I think the AGD and other agencies are currently working our way through to respond to that report. So that is very recent. We need to look at that report and see what criticisms there are, what work they say we are not doing and how we are going to respond to those particular criticisms. I do not have all of that with me. I will need to take that on notice.

**Senator RHIANNON:** But isn't that five months ago? You do not have information for these estimates on how that response is going?

**Mr Colvin:** I am sure we know a lot about the reports, but until such time as Australia has had a chance to respond to the report and the report is finalised in a published OECD report, it would not be appropriate for us to talk about it.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Who do you work with in regard to the response? Is it just from AFP or are you working with other departments?

**Mr Colvin:** It is whole-of-government, led by the Attorney-General's Department.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Within the Australian government, does the AFP have lead responsibility for international counternarcotics policy?

**Mr Colvin:** No. The lead policy department would be the Attorney-General's Department, but there would be a range of other departments across the Australian government that would have a role in that. Clearly we, from an operational agency perspective, have quite a deal of input into that.

**Senator RHIANNON:** What are the formalised human rights safeguards applied to ensure funds allocated to overseas counternarcotics efforts do not lead to human rights abuses?

**Mr Colvin:** I will take that on notice. I think that is the best way.

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

*Measures taken by AFP in response to OECD Phase 3 Report*

See response to question BE15/047.

*Formalised human rights safeguards in relation to overseas counternarcotics efforts*

Assistance provided by the AFP to foreign law enforcement agencies is undertaken with regard to the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*, Ministerial Direction and any other legislation, treaty, convention, agreement, policy, guideline or associated governance document relevant to the provision of capacity development to foreign law enforcement.

All assistance provided by the AFP to its international partners is fundamentally designed to incorporate the key principles of supporting human rights.