



ATTORNEY-GENERAL

CANBERRA

4 June 2015

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Ms Dunstone

Correction to Hansard

I am writing to clarify evidence provided by me to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs at the Budget Estimates hearing on Thursday 28 May 2015.

On page 87 of the transcript, in responding to Senator Collins' questions regarding a letter my Office received from Man Monis, I stated that, "When the Thawley-Comley review – which is the review by PM&C and the New South Wales premier's department – looked at this, it looked at all of this material including this letter, and it concluded that as late as December, so after this exchange of correspondence, it was still the case that Monis was not somebody who should have raised alerts."

That evidence was based on advice I had received from my Department. It was consistent with the evidence of Ms Katherine Jones, Deputy Secretary, Criminal Justice and National Security, Attorney-General's Department, who told the Committee on Wednesday 27 May 2014 at page 87 that: "It was provided to the review and we considered all the correspondence that was provided to us."

This error has since been drawn to my attention and I have arranged for the Attorney-General's Department to supply the letter and the Department's response to the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Michael Thawley. I have since received a copy of Mr Thawley's letter to the Prime Minister on this issue dated 4 June 2015, a copy of which I attach. He concludes that the letter in question would have no difference to the findings in the review.



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Michael Thawley AO
Secretary**

Ref: EC15/376

The Hon. Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

A question was asked in Parliament about a letter to the Attorney General from Man Monis on 7 October 2014 and its availability to the review into the Martin Place siege conducted by me and my NSW counterpart, the head of the NSW Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The letter was not available to us. The Attorney General's Department has investigated the circumstances surrounding this omission and briefed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the result.

It advises that, through an administrative handling error, there was a group of five documents which they failed to hand over to the review team during the document discovery phase.

PM&C has examined these five documents. The review team had four of these from other sources (ASIO and PM&C) and considered them as part of the review.

The fifth document, the letter from Man Monis, was not available at the time.

I have considered this letter against the background of the many other letters that Man Monis sent to politicians and others and the very large volume of other information and documents that were available to us.

I can assure you that the letter would have made no difference to the findings in the review.

I have kept my NSW counterpart informed.

Michael Thawley
4 June 2015