

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Federal Police

Question No. BE17-068

Senator Xenophon asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

Senator XENOPHON: Yes, about 60 seconds—starting now. Commissioner, the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act annual report lists a number of reports that the AFP made application for. I think the 2014-15 report refers to 856 warrants. You concede that that does not in any way compromise the integrity of operations or any privacy issues simply by giving those number of warrants?

Mr Colvin: No. We are required to report that.

Senator XENOPHON: That is right, and many would see it as a useful oversight tool. You may want to take this on notice: have you seen the UK Interception of Communications Commissioner's annual report where the commissioner has given detailed information on journalist warrant equivalents? Do you intend to have journalist information warrant numbers published in the TIA annual report?

Mr Colvin: I think the intention is they are. I will take it on notice.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

In accordance with subparagraphs 186(1)(i) and (j) of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*, the AFP is required to report to the Minister on the number of authorisations made under a journalist information warrant and the number of journalist information warrants issued.

These figures will form part of the AFP's report on the use of telecommunications interception which is provided to the Attorney-General's Department for inclusion in the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* Annual Report.