



OCOM 2017/1161

Ms Toni Matulick
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Matulick

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection appeared at the Senate Budget Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing on Monday, 22 May 2017 and Tuesday, 23 May 2017.

The Commissioner of the Australian Border Force, Roman Quaedvlieg APM, gave evidence to the Senate in relation to the outage of a border processing system.

I have reviewed the Hansard record and I have become aware of the need to clarify responses made by Commissioner Quaedvlieg to Senator Pratt.

The first reference is on page 72 from 22 May 2017. Senator Pratt asked: "I understand that, but it is the crash of the Advance Passenger Processing system today that I wanted to ask some questions about, and I assume that has an Immigration element to it."

The Commissioner's response to this question was, in part: "...The system that malfunctioned today is a system called SITA which supports the airlines in terms of the verification and validation of passports."

Following a review of the systems outage in question, I can advise SITA is contracted by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to provide connectivity and data for Advance Passenger Processing and related border control systems. This system was affected by a third party telecommunications failure and did not itself malfunction at any point.

The second reference I wish to clarify is on page 73: Senator Pratt asked: "It is not a system you operate; it is not a system that is paid for. It is paid for by the airlines and managed by the airlines, and that is because it is information that you require them to provide to you?"

The Commissioner's response was, "Yes, there is a mandatory or, indeed, a statutory obligation upon airlines to provide information to the department under APP, advanced passenger processing. We are simply the recipients of the outcomes of that, but it is certainly not a system which we fund or operate."

This response was accurate in relation to the final part of Senator Pratt's question. As advised above, SITA is contracted by the Department to provide certain border-related services.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Outram', written in a cursive style.

Michael Outram APM
Acting Commissioner

29 June 2017