

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

Group: 3

Program Other Agency

Question No. SBE14/051

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Thank you. In that statement, you have answered some of the questions that I had—for example, about the discussions with the Commonwealth DPP—and you have mentioned that the collection of some of the information was outside the control of government. But can I ask what discussions the AFP had with the government before the announcement of this decision?

Mr Colvin: In relation to the announcement of the decision, no discussion. That was a decision of the AFP and the AFP alone.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: And during the course of the investigation and in reaching the conclusion that you had exhausted all avenues?

Mr Colvin: I believe there would have been occasions when we would have briefed the government, because this has been high profile. I would have to check on which occasions we have briefed government. In terms of the conduct of the investigation and the evidence that was available to us, that is not a matter that we have consulted with government for instance.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Would you mind taking it on notice to provide to us with the information about when you did brief government?

Mr Colvin: We can check the dates and times of formal briefings, yes.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Thank you.

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

The AFP provided a total of 10 briefings to the Government between 2009 and 2014. Briefing dates as follows: June 2009, July 2009, August 2009, September 2009, April 2010, March 2011, July 2011, May 2012, March 2013 and October 2014.