

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

**Group: 3**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. SBE14/059**

**Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 11 December 2014:**

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I am interested in the outcome of the review from the professional standards team. You do not have those details before you at the moment?

Mr Colvin: No, and I am not aware of them, but I will definitely take that on notice and we can provide the committee with the outcome of the review and the investigation.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Given the nature of the incident, I am keen to understand where the failure was seen to have occurred and what has been put in place subsequently to ensure that it does not happen again.

Mr Colvin: Absolutely, and, as I said, it is regrettable; it should not have happened. It is not consistent with my expectations nor our guidelines and practices. Beyond that, I will wait and see what the actual investigation has found out.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: So you have not seen that yourself yet?

Mr Colvin: No, I have not.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: But it has concluded?

Mr Colvin: I would have to check.

Mr Wood: It has not concluded yet. My understanding is that the investigation itself in terms of the gathering of evidence and talking to everybody involved is concluded, but then reaching a recommendation on the actual action to then be taken is not yet finalised. So it has not come to me yet either.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: All right, then I think I will be a bit more cautious about asking any more questions. I do not want to pre-empt the consideration of the review. Answers to questions are not due in until February, so perhaps if you could anticipate my questions and forward us the outcomes of that decision.

Mr Colvin: And given the time frame that has already occurred, it would be my expectation that the matter would be very close to finalisation, and we will have something for you by February.

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

Since this incident occurred, the following has taken place:

- an internal review into the incident and procedures surrounding the storage, handling and transportation of munitions conducted by AFP Technical Forensics Intelligence (TFI) is progressing;

- an AFP Professional Standards (PRS) investigation into the matter is ongoing;
- a stocktake of all explosive holdings the AFP National Canine Program possess for canine training purposes, was conducted in January 2015, which resulted in 100% compliance with current holdings.

The findings and recommendations from the TFI review, once completed, will inform the outcome of the PRS investigation.

At the conclusion of the review and investigation, all AFP National Canine Program members will receive further training to ensure they are fully conversant with the procedures for the storage, handling and transportation of Commonwealth explosives.