

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. SBE15/094**

**Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:**

1. Is it correct that the AFP budget is set to reduce by \$220 million by 2018-19?
2. How will the budget cuts impact AFP operations?
3. How will this reduction impact equipment upgrades and technology advancement?
4. Have AFP national security and counter terrorism activities increased over recent years? If so, how will the budget cuts impact on these activities?
5. How many arrests have been made as a result of AFP or joint counter terrorism operations?
6. Does the AFP receive any portion of the additional \$1.2 billion allocated by the Government in the 2015-16 budget to national security and counter terrorism?
7. How much of that additional funding was allocated to the AFP?
8. Does this proportion of funding accurately reflect the proportional role of the AFP in counter terrorism and national security activities compared to other agencies?
9. How has the AFP coped with increasing counter terrorism and security activities faced with budget cuts?

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

1. No.
2. Terminating policy measures enable the AFP to plan the reduction in activity associated with those measures. Within resources available the AFP will prioritise activity in accordance with the policy direction of the government set through the budget.
3. The 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements show capital injections through capital measures and Departmental Capital Budgets increase from \$86m in 2015-16 to \$92m in 2018-19.
4. The AFP continues to experience a significant rise in operational activity which can be directly attributed to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. This level of activity is anticipated to continue as the number of Australians seeking to support conflict continues to grow. Of significant concern in the current operating environment is the increasing number of Australians who are travelling overseas to participate in the conflict or plan attacks onshore.

The AFP will continue to prioritise work and cases based on the risks and threats to Australian interests.

5. Since 12 September 2014, when the National Terrorism Public Alert level was raised to High, 26 people have been charged as a result of 10 counter-terrorism operations around Australia.

6, 7 and 8.

The AFP did not receive any portion of the \$1.2bn national security funding announced in the 2015-16 budget. The AFP received additional national security funding of \$235.9m over four years announced at the 2015 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook to counter terrorism, upgrade security at Australian Parliament House and enhance Protective Security Arrangements. This is partially offset by \$40.3m of reduced revenue from the Department of Parliamentary Services which was previously paid to the AFP for security at Parliament House.

9. The AFP's capacity to respond to increased volumes of activities and threat means that resources are stretched. The AFP will continue to prioritise work and cases based on the risks and threats to Australian interests.