



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Secretary

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25 March 2014

Mr David Sullivan
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sullivan

I write to clarify evidence that I gave at the Senate Estimates hearing on 27 February 2014. I refer to Senator Heffernan's questions regarding the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission).

In response to Senator Heffernan's questions, I stated that it was not my understanding that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) was captured by the terms of reference of the Royal Commission (page 33 of Hansard, 27 February 2014). That remains accurate in that the Royal Commission's terms of reference do not specifically refer to DFAT, but it is the case that they are very broad and capture Commonwealth agencies, including DFAT.

I can confirm that the the Department has not made any submissions to the Royal Commission (page 33 of Hansard, 27 February 2014). However, the Attorney General's Department (AGD) is coordinating the Commonwealth's input to the Royal Commission and the Department has provided information to AGD as part of whole of government responses to information requests and Notices to Produce from the Royal Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Peter N Varghese AO