

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2012

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Parliament Drive  
Question: 152  
Hansard reference F&PA p.53, 15 October 2012

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012**

**Senator FIFIELD:** Just on that point, given the road, Parliament Drive, is within the parliamentary precinct and under the jurisdiction of the presiding officers, the ACT police could only operate on that road if there was a standing agreement between the parliament and the ACT police that they could do that, I would assume.

**Ms Mills:** Technically, I believe that would be correct. There would be delegated responsibilities to the various parties, through the Presiding Officers. Again, I could look at what has been arranged historically, if that is helpful.

**Senator FIFIELD:** Thank you. I am just curious as to what the standing arrangements are in relation to the enforcement of laws within the parliamentary precinct. Thank you.

## Answer

The *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987* indicates that the police may exercise in the Parliamentary Precincts the powers that they possess under the ordinary law. By convention, police do not conduct investigations, make arrests, or execute any process on the parliamentary precincts without consultation with the Presiding Officers. An exception is a standing approval to perform traffic operations on the precincts, which may result in arrests, investigations or issue of infringement notices.

The *Parliamentary Precincts Act 1988* provides for the Director of Public Prosecutions to exercise functions in respect of offences committed on the Parliamentary Precincts, in accordance with general arrangements agreed with the Presiding Officers.

The Act also provides for the police to arrest or hold in custody a person, on the order of either House, in accordance with general arrangements agreed between the Presiding Officers and the Minister administering the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*.

The *Parliamentary Precincts Act 1988* provides for general arrangements in relation to the performance of functions of protective services officers on the precincts. Protective services officers from the Australian Federal Police (Uniformed Protection) provide security services on the precincts, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between DPS and the Australian Federal Police.