

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 51

Senator Brown asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

- a. How many investigations have been run over the past two years into allegations of bribery occurring overseas?
- b. What were these matters?

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

- a. Between 25 May 2008 and 25 May 2010 the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has finalised four investigations relating to bribery of foreign public officials. The AFP currently has two active investigations relating to bribery of foreign public officials and one matter is currently under evaluation.
- b. Three of the four matters finalised related to allegations that Australian companies had paid bribes, or had offered to pay bribes, to overseas public officials in order to obtain project contracts. These three matters were finalised as there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations. The fourth matter which was finalised related to an individual who allegedly paid bribes to a foreign public official with the intention of influencing that foreign public official in his official duties. This matter did not proceed as the alleged activities occurred prior to the introduction of the foreign bribery legislation (Division 70 of the Criminal Code Act 1995) on 17 December 1999.

The AFP is undertaking an investigation concerning allegations published in The Age newspaper on 23 May 2009 that Securrency International Pty Ltd engaged in bribery of foreign public officials. As the AFP is currently investigating this matter it is not appropriate to provide any further information.

The AFP is also undertaking an investigation concerning allegations that an Australian company paid bribes to a foreign public official in order to secure a contract. As the AFP is currently investigating this matter it is not appropriate to provide any further information.

The matter currently under evaluation relates to a referral concerning allegations that a company had bribed foreign officials. It is not appropriate to comment further.