

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 51

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: No, do not worry about that. Have there been any other incidents at Villawood involving unlawful entrants, other than the riot, to which the Australian Federal Police were called?

Mr Colvin: The answer to that question is yes.

Senator BRANDIS: Can you provide details of those other incidents?

Mr Colvin: It depends on the time frame. We were aware of various protest activities at detention centres. I cannot be specific about which ones and when.

Senator BRANDIS: It is not core to my line of questioning, so perhaps the easiest thing might be for you to take that one on notice.

Mr Colvin: We will take it on notice.

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

Apart from the Villawood incidents on 21 April 2011, the AFP received three separate referrals from the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre, during the period June 2009 – June 2011. These referrals are as follows:

1. Referral received from SERCO on 10 May 2011 relating to alleged criminal damage to CCTV cameras. The referral was accepted, and is currently under investigation by the AFP.
2. Referral received from DIAC on 11 May 2011 relating to alleged assault of a detainee by a SERCO officer. The referral was accepted, and is currently under investigation by the AFP.
3. A referral on 25 May 2011 was received from SERCO. An investigation was conducted. No charges were laid as a result of that investigation.