

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 52**

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

**Senator BRANDIS:** How many buildings were significantly damaged by fire? Can you tell me?  
The press reports that it was nine.

**Mr Colvin:** Yes, I think it was nine.

**Senator BRANDIS:** Out of how many?

**Mr Colvin:** I could not say.

**Senator BRANDIS:** Was it most of the buildings?

**Mr Colvin:** No, I would not say that it was most. It was some critical facilities—a medical centre, kitchen facilities, and the galley-type facilities. I understand most of the accommodation blocks were still there. I do not think ‘most’ would be the right word, but again I could not be accurate with that.

**Senator BRANDIS:** You might be able to take that on notice.

**Mr Colvin:** DIAC would be much better placed to answer these questions.

**Senator BRANDIS:** These questions have also been asked of DIAC. What we are interested in is getting evidence from all of the relevant witnesses to the event.

**Mr Colvin:** To answer the question, I will have to ask DIAC.

**Senator BRANDIS:** From a policing point of view, you may assess what they tell you differently from the way they might express it. Does it amount to this: at the time you entered the centre and for some time before that the only significant disorder was the presence of people on the roofs?

**Mr Colvin:** You describe that as disorder but, yes.

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

The disturbance at Villawood Detention Centre took place in the Fowler and Hughes compounds of the Centre, which comprise 35 buildings in total.

The AFP is advised that 4 buildings were damaged and 10 demountables were destroyed during the disturbance.