

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 55

Senator Fielding asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Please provide the terms of reference of the AFP review into how the AFP acts on missing persons overseas?

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

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) will conduct a review of its response to the disappearance and subsequent location of Ms Britt Laphorne in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The review will aim to identify areas where the performance of the AFP or interaction with other agencies could be improved.

The Terms of Reference of the review are:

- The timeliness of all AFP actions;
- The appropriateness of the AFP's initial response to the missing person;
- The level of cooperation and interaction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), including whether there was clear leadership responsibility, media management, and family liaison roles attributed;
- The selection of Federal Agent Dokmanovic to attend Croatia, including any potential issues arising from his Serbian heritage;
- The rationale behind the decision to allow DFAT to continue to be the single point of contact for the Laphorne family after AFP arrival in Dubrovnik;
- The relationship management and level of support offered to the Croatian Police;
- The AFP's role in relationship management with the Laphorne family both in Australia and in Croatia including the performance of AFP Family Investigative Liaison Officers; and
- The AFP's response to Interpol requests for assistance.