

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022 - 2023

Australian Federal Police

BE23-672 - Contact with Peter Dutton

Senator Deborah O'Neill asked the following question on 22 August 2023:

1. Since 21 May 2022, how many times has the Australian Federal Police had communications with Mr Peter Dutton?
2. In respect of each instance in which the Australian Federal Police had communications with Mr Dutton, please provide the following information:
 - a. who at the AFP had communications with Mr Dutton
 - b. who instigated the communication
 - c. the date and time of the communication
 - d. the form of communication (e.g. text message, telephone call, email etc)
 - e. what the communication was about
 - f. if the communication was a telephone call, the length of the call
3. Since 21 May 2022, how many times has the Australian Federal Police had communications with Mr Dutton's office?
4. In respect of each instance in which the Australian Federal Police has communicated with Mr Dutton's office, please provide the following information:
 - a. who at the AFP had communications with Mr Dutton's office
 - b. who instigated the communication
 - c. the date and time of the communication
 - d. the form of communication (e.g. text message, telephone call, email etc)
 - e. what the communication was about
 - f. if the communication was a telephone call, the length of the call

The response to the senator's question is as follows:

- 1) Between 21 May 2022 and 22 August 2023, the AFP has identified 5 communications with Mr Peter Dutton MP excluding communication on protective security issues.
- 2) The communications with Mr Dutton MP were with the Commissioner and/or Deputy Commissioners and related to written invitations to the annual National Police Remembrance Day service (in July 2022 and March 2023), a request by letter (August 2022) for a briefing on operational matters (conducted in September 2022), and a meeting on a historical operational matter (August 2023). Both the September 2022 briefing and August 2023 meeting were organised via the office of the Attorney-General.
- 3) Between 21 May 2022 and 22 August 2023, the AFP has identified 34 communications with Mr Dutton's office.
- 4) These communications – either emails, texts or telephone calls - were largely for the purpose of settling administrative arrangements related to the communications outlined at (1) and (2).