

AE21-122 - Telephone calls with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Senator Kristina Keneally asked:

Please provide details of each telephone call the Commissioner of the AFP has had with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2021, including

- a. the purpose/ subject matter of the call
- b. how the call was arranged
- c. on what day and at what time the call took place
- d. the duration of the call
- e. who was present on the call and
- f. did any AFP officer take notes. If so, can the note be provided. If no file note was made, why not.

Answer:

In the normal conduct of their roles there is a variety of contact between the AFP Commissioner and the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), including in relation national security and Cabinet matters.

In relation to discussions about the active criminal investigation, and its potential intersection with the related inquiries led by the PM&C Secretary (and others), the AFP Commissioner and the PM&C Secretary had a number of discussions via telephone, including on:

- 21 February
- 22 February
- 9 March
- 12 March
- 21 March
- 22 March

The contents of these telephone communications have been discussed during Senate Estimates hearing on 22 March and the Spillover hearing on 14 April. In addition, the AFP Commissioner corrected the Hansard in relation to the detail about one of the telephone conversations, sent to the Committee Chair on 6 May 2021.

On 24 February the AFP Commissioner and the PM&C Secretary had four discussions via telephone relating to the dossier which had been received at Parliament House, its contents, and the Commissioner's letter to the Prime Minister regarding the appropriate process for referring criminal allegations. The AFP did not take contemporaneous notes during these calls.