



**AFP**  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Our reference: EC21-000371

4 March 2021

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham  
Special Minister of State

Via email: [Senator.Birmingham@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.Birmingham@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator

As you will no doubt be aware, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) is currently investigating an allegation of sexual assault that is said to have occurred in the ministerial suite of the (then) Defence Industry Minister in 2019. As you will appreciate, the allegation is serious and is being treated with due care and attention by the AFP, including oversight by the AFP's Sensitive Investigations Oversight Board.

The AFP has been advised by Mr Phil Gaetjens, Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, that you are conducting a review into matters related to the alleged assault referred to above.

The extent to which these inquiries may traverse the same subject matter as the AFP investigation is of interest and potential concern to the AFP. As such, I would be grateful if you could advise me of the terms of reference of any such inquiries and the best point of contact if further communication is required.

I am happy to arrange a discussion with appropriate officials around the nature and scope of these obligations if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

✓ Reece P Kershaw APM  
Commissioner