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EC23-003688

Senator Nita Green  
Committee Chair  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair,

The Home Affairs Portfolio appeared before the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee at its Budget Estimates hearing on Tuesday 23 May 2023. I gave evidence to the Senate in my capacity as Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs. I have reviewed the Hansard record and seek to correct a response I gave to a question from Senator James Paterson.

The reference for correction commences on page 14 of the Hansard in response to the following question from Senator James Paterson:

*"Has OSB or ABF received a request through the Minister's office to brief the opposition on these reports?"*

My response on behalf of the Department and ABF to this question was:

*"I'm aware that a request has been made by your good self. My understanding is that such a briefing has been approved."*

I also indicated in qualifying this statement at the time, that if my understanding was not correct, I would withdraw my statement. Hansard records:

*"I believe it's been approved. If I've inadvertently broken news ahead of time, I will withdraw, but my understanding is that the briefing's been approved, so we look forward to diarising that."*

I am now providing a correction of evidence in response to this question:

*"I am advised the Minister has declined the Opposition's briefing request."*

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Parliament through the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Pezzullo AO**  
Secretary  
Department of Home Affairs

4 July 2023

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