

5 August 2019

Mrs Lucy Wicks MP
Chair
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
By email: jcpaa@aph.gov.au

Dear Mrs Wicks

Australian National Audit Office response to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Report 479: Australian Government Security Arrangements

I am writing in relation to the recommendations directed to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) contained in the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) Report 479, *Australian Government Security Arrangements*.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Auditor-General consider conducting a number of additional audits of Australian Government entities focusing on their performance against Protective Security Policy Framework requirements and recommended practices.

ANAO Response:

The ANAO's Annual Audit Work Program (AAWP) 2019-20 includes a potential audit topic [*Implementation of the revised Protective Security Policy Framework*](#). This cross-entity audit, if commenced, would assess the effectiveness of the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) in promoting the revised Protective Security Policy Framework and the extent to which a selection of entities are meeting the framework's core requirements.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office consider conducting a follow-up audit [of Domestic Passenger Screening] in 2019-20, focusing on the [Home Affairs] department's implementation of eight agreed ANAO recommendations and considering the

department's entire compliance program.

ANAO Response:

In determining the AAWP, the ANAO considers prior-year audit and other review findings and what these indicate about portfolio risks and areas for improvement, as well as emerging risks from new investments, reforms or operating environment changes. A further follow-up performance audit topic on domestic passenger screening was not included in the 2019-20 AAWP as the ANAO has already conducted two performance audits on this topic in the past three years and there were topics considered for 2019-20 that were determined to be of a higher priority based on a risk assessment and previous audit activity.

The Home Affairs Portfolio Overview in the AAWP notes that facilitating the movement of goods and people across the Australian border is a key service delivery risk for the department. The ANAO will continue to monitor developments across the Australian Government public sector including within the Home Affairs portfolio and consider the coverage of domestic passenger screening as part of the development of the 2020-21 AAWP.

Yours sincerely

Grant Hehir