



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

SECRETARY

OSEC #2623

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications (References)
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I refer to my testimony before the Environment and Communications References Committee's inquiry into Press Freedom on Friday 15 November 2019. I am writing to clarify evidence.

On Page 25 of the Hansard, Senator Urquhart asked about the resourcing allocated to the Freedom of Information function within the Department. In my evidence on page 26 of the Hansard I stated that the number of staff working on cybersecurity, child protection, counter-terrorism and countering foreign interference was '... 79, exactly the same' as the number of staff undertaking Freedom of Information activities.

I have since checked departmental records in consultation with my colleagues, and can confirm that, as at 31 October 2019, there were 75 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff working on these activities: 44 on counter-terrorism, 20 on cyber security policy; six on countering foreign interference and five on child protection. This total is slightly lower than the resources working on Freedom of Information.

Yours sincerely

Michael Pezullo
Secretary

10 December 2019