

Appendix 1

Mr Ben Davies

Pursuant to Resolution 5(7)(b) of the Senate of 25 February 1988

Reply to comments by Senator McAllister (12 November 2020)

1. On 12 November 2020, I was mentioned adversely in the Senate by Senator McAllister in a manner which would identify me.
2. The comments by Senator McAllister referred to me in my capacity as a former Chief of Staff to Senator Cash.
3. During Questions Without Notice on 12 November 2020, Senator McAllister made the following statement in reference to me:

“Is this the same Chief of Staff that was under investigation by the AFP for illegally leaking to the media and confirmed to be the source of the illegal leak...”

4. The assertion by Senator McAllister that I was “under investigation by the AFP” is incorrect. The assertion imputes that I was suspected of engaging in criminal conduct. Any suggestion that I was “under investigation” or had engaged in such conduct is completely false, defamatory and without foundation. Other than assertions such as those by Senator McAllister in the Senate under the cover of privilege, I am not aware of any suggestion to this effect by any other person.
5. It is an extremely serious matter to be under investigation for alleged criminal conduct. It is equally serious to falsely impute that a person has been.
6. The further assertion by Senator McAllister that I was “the source of the illegal leak” is also false. I have not engaged in any “leak” of information, whether legal or otherwise, to any member of the media. The imputation that I have is completely false, defamatory and without foundation. Other than assertions such as those by Senator McAllister in the Senate, under cover of privilege, I am not aware of any suggestion to this effect by any other person.
7. Given that the comments made by Senator McAllister on 12 November 2020 directly led to injury to my reputation, and were false, I seek this opportunity to provide the ascertainable facts and correct the Senate record.

Ben Davies
13 November 2020