



Ms Ann Palmer
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Palmer

Correction to Questions on Notice regarding an investigation into an alleged breach of the CCTV Code

I wish to correct the answers to three Questions on Notice (QoN), regarding the appointment of an independent investigator to conduct an investigation into an alleged breach of the CCTV Code between 18 February 2019 and 3 March 2020.

The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) undertook a review of all responses provided in relation to the investigation into this matter and identified that an explanation provided misinterpreted QoN 23 asked on 18 February 2019, which was then repeated in subsequent responses.

The responses to the QoNs below stated an independent investigator was not appointed to conduct an investigation of an alleged breach of the CCTV Code. This is incorrect.

It has been established:

- The response to QoN 23 – Additional Estimates – 18 February 2019 is not accurate to the extent it states an independent investigator was not engaged (6 c and d)
- The response to QoN 200 – Supplementary Budget Estimates – Spill over hearing 14 November 2019 is not accurate to the extent it states an independent investigator was not engaged
- The response to QoN 116 from Additional Estimates 2019-20 is not accurate to the extent it states an independent investigator was not engaged (3)

I have corresponded separately with the Senate Table Office to notify them the response to parliamentary QoN 1038 dated 20 December 2019 is also not accurate to the extent it states an independent investigator was not engaged.

I have attached amended responses to QoNs 23, 200 and 116, I would be grateful if you could draw this to the Committee's attention.

Yours sincerely

Rob Stefanic
Secretary
2 February 2021

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Additional Estimates Hearing—18 February 2019

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Adherence to the CCTV Code of Practice**
Question: **23**
Written: **Senator KITCHING**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 March 2019

5 On how many occasions has an Authorised Officer accessed the CCTV system, operated CCTV equipment and/or viewed footage before he/she completed Parliamentary Privileges training and/or signed the declaration of compliance? If there are instances, provide dates and details.

6 With reference to Senate question on notice number 1194, in relation to the one alleged and investigated Code of Practice breach in the 2018/19 year:

- (a) When was ;that breach reported to the Director of Policy and Governance?
- (b) When did the Director of Policy and Governance report it to the Assistant Secretary Security Branch?
- (c) When was the independent investigator engaged?
- (d) Please produce a copy of the investigator's report, with confidential details redacted.

Answer

5. There have been no reported instances where a person has been found to have accessed or operated the CCTV equipment and/or viewed footage in an inappropriate manner, since the revised CCTV Code of Practice was approved.

6. With reference to Senate Question on Notice 1194:

- a) The alleged APH CCTV Code of Practice breach was reported to the Director of Security Policy and Governance on 4 September 2018.
- b) The alleged APH CCTV Code of Practice breach was reported to the Assistant Secretary of Security Branch on 4 September 2018.
- c) The independent investigator was appointed on 4 September 2018. The use of CCTV was found to be in accordance with the Code.
- d) DPS does not disclose specific details related to security, including the CCTV system in a public forum. Despite redaction, the details of this matter would identify the individual involved.