



Mr Tasman Larnach  
Acting Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Larnach

**Senate Additional Estimates—Department of Parliamentary Services**

I would like to clarify evidence I provided to the Committee on 21 May 2018.

During the hearing for DPS, I responded to questioning from Senator Kitching as follows:

**Senator KITCHING:** Do you do any training with or have anything to do with the ACT hazmat fire brigade unit?

**Mr Anderson:** Yes, because the ACT fire brigade and ACT Ambulance Service have both attended Parliament House and viewed the HazMatID Elite, and our training and our protocols, and they've signed off on it.

**Senator KITCHING:** My question is, there is a training program: is that commensurate with training programs that other officers in other agencies or facilities might receive who are dealing with the same circumstances?

**Mr Anderson:** I'm not sure, Senator, but, as I tendered in evidence before, ACT Ambulance Service and the ACT fire brigade have looked at our program and they've signed off on it.

**Senator KITCHING:** So they have signed off on the training, is that correct?

**Mr Anderson:** Whether it's signed off on the training—but they certainly have looked at our use of that device.

**Senator KITCHING:** Just so I am clear—because I don't want you to come back with a response saying, 'the suits aren't from Bunnings.' What I'm asking you is: where are the suits from? Are they of the appropriate level—that, for example, the ACT fire brigade would also use in similar instances? Because you have indicated that they may also attend Parliament House. So I want to know whether those suits—which are colloquially said to be \$6 painting overalls from Bunnings; I don't want you to narrow my question down and tell me, 'No, they're not from Bunnings.' I would like a response back as to whether they are appropriate suiting for people to wear when dealing with hazardous materials. If you could take that on notice, that would be good.

**Mr Anderson:** I don't need to take that on notice, Senator, I can answer that question, as I believe I've answered it before. The ACT fire brigade have turned up and looked at our PPE and looked at our uses of the device, and have signed off on it.

I refer to my statement at the Budget Estimates hearing on 21 May 2018 where I had indicated that the ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire and Rescue have looked at our training program and signed off on it.

This statement was made based on verbal advice I received from within the Security Branch. While I have been given further assurances that these agencies had verbally agreed to the training program, I have been unable to locate clear documentary evidence in support of this agreement.

I wish to draw this to the committee's attention.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Anderson  
Assistant Secretary, Security Branch  
Building & Security Division

6 July 2018