



Dr Sean Turner  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Turner

The Department of Home Affairs appeared at the Senate Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing on Monday 18 February 2019.

In my capacity as Commissioner, I gave evidence to the Senate and have reviewed the Hansard record. In relation to my testimony, I have become aware of the need to correct my responses made to questions from Senator Kitching.

The particular reference for correction is on page 136 of the Hansard from 18 February 2019 in response to the question from Senator Kitching "Can you guarantee that no ABF Cape class vessel stopped active patrolling to save money on fuel?"

My response to this question was, "Yes. That did not happen"

Having reviewed the Fairfax article of 12 December 2018, referenced by Senator Kitching, I would like to correct the record to indicate that while there was no "pulling ships from ocean patrol", there was a brief period between 3 and 11 December 2018 where ABF vessels adopted a more risk based approach within their assigned patrol areas, where response activity was cued through intelligence, radar sighting or visual sighting. This correction should also be reflected against my similar response at page 130, 135 and 137.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Outram APM**  
Commissioner

*22* February 2019