



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
www.afp.gov.au

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6 May 2021

Senator Sarah Henderson
Committee Chair
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Henderson

Correction to Hansard of 14 April 2021

I write to you concerning evidence provided in my capacity as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) at the Senate Estimates (Spillover) Hearing before the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on 14 April 2021.

In the context of responding to a number of detailed Questions of Notice I have carefully reviewed the Hansard record and I have become aware of the need to correct the response I made to a line of questioning from Senator Keneally.

The particular reference for correction is on page 49 of the Hansard. I provided the following response to questions from Senator Keneally:

Senator KENEALLY: Were you contacted by anyone from the Prime Minister's office, from Prime Minister and Cabinet, from Mr Gaetjens to discuss your testimony between the time you finished giving it and when you put out the statement at 2.01 pm?

Mr Kershaw: No. I made that contact.

Senator KENEALLY: You made that contact? Who did you contact?

Mr Kershaw: Yes. I advised the secretary that I was putting out a media statement—based on what I'd read of his evidence—to clarify.

Senator KENEALLY: To clarify your evidence?

Mr Kershaw: To clarify the situation, and that's what I did.

After receiving a number of detailed Questions on Notice from Senator Keneally about the date and time of all contact with certain department officials and ministerial offices, I sought advice from my staff to confirm details of relevant communications. As you would expect, in the normal conduct of our roles we have a variety of regular conduct – some of which is initiated by Mr Gaetjens, and some of which is initiated by me.

I provide the following correction of evidence:

“Following my appearance at Estimates on 22 March 2021, I intended to contact Mr Gaetjens. My recollection was that I called him. Following a check of AFP records, it was in fact Mr Gaetjens who called me.”

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, to ensure that correct information is on the public record. I note the AFP is also responding to a number of written Questions on Notice related to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner