

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2015 3:42 PM
To: SES Staff
Cc: DLO; QTB; Indigenous Affairs Coordination
Subject: Question Time Summary - 28 May 2015 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon

The following is a summary of questions asked during Question Time (House only sitting); transcript to follow once received.

House of Representatives

Coding Education (Shorten to PM)

Government Update: Budget for Small Business (Christensen to PM)

Small Capital Expenditure Results (Bowen to Hockey)

Government Update: Budget: Stronger Australia, Stronger Economy (Sadimalis to Hockey)

Cuts to Family Tax Benefits (Macklin to PM)

Live Cattle Trade – Indonesia (Katter to Joyce)

Changes to Government Departments after raise of terror alert (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Government Update: Budget: Update on Small Business (Brough to Billson)

Government Update: Budget Measures for Regional Australians affected by drought (Landry To Joyce)

No changes to Ministerial Offices after the raise in Australia's Terror Alert (Dreyfus to Bishop)

Government Update: Budget: Working Families (Bachholz to Morrison)

Protocols for correspondence REF terror terms (Dreyfus to Bishop)

Government Update: Update on foreign fighter threat to National Security (Coleman to Bishop)

Letter from Monis to AGD (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Government Update: Citizenship Changes to respond to terrorism threats (Hogan to Dutton)

10G delay in speaking to DG ASIO ref Man Monis Letter (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Government Update: Safe and Respectful Workplaces (Hawke to Pyne)

Contents of Man Monis Letter (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Update on Carbon Tax Savings (Jones to Hunt)

Routine handling of Man Monis Letter (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Government Update: Superannuation Stability (Randall to Friedenburg)

Handling of Man Monis Letter by the Attorney-General (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Government Update: National Security Matters (Kelly to Keenan)

Position of the Government in handling of future correspondence from known criminals (Dreyfus to Brandis) Bishop Answered

Government Update: Budget - National Work Experience Measures (Pitt to Hartsuyker)

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Office of the Prime Minister

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 8:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Monis TPs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: 31 - UPDATED - Monis – Correspondence - 28 May 2015.docx; ATT00001.htm; 150528 - [REDACTED] ATT00002.htm

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our conversation earlier, please find attached the QTB concerning the Monis letter.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Office of the Attorney-General

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Monis TPs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

QTB and Media release on Monis attached.

[REDACTED]
Office of the Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate
[REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 11:50 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: ppq [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: 1505601PPQ monislettertobrandis.docx

Unofficial

[Redacted]

I have rung and spoken to AGD again. They are ducking for cover. But I have prepared the attached. It is as much as I or anyone knows.

Simon Smalleys team had also prepared one.

I will smash them together and send you an update.

allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ph: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]
Office: [Redacted]

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 11:42 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: ppq [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Unofficial

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ph: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]
Office: [Redacted]

Monis letter to Senator Brandis

AGD never provided the Monis/Brandis letter to the Martin Place Review team. The Team was never aware of the existence of the letter.

Background

The Martin Place Review was announced on 17 December 2014. Shortly afterwards all agencies and ministries were asked to provide the Review team with any material that they had of relevance to the review.

AGD did provide a batch of material to the review team but it was only sometime after they had provided that material that AGD staff became aware of the existence of the Monis/Brandis letter although they had still not physically located it at that time.

According to AGD, On 2 February when AGD had physically located the letter an AGD officer rang a junior member of the Review Team. They were told that the Review had already been completed and forwarded to the Prime Minister.

The fact that AGD had located the letter was never communicated to either of the two Deputy Secretaries leading the Review (McKinnon PMC and Jones AGD).

AGD is now reviewing the history of the events to determine why the letter was not found when AGD were asked to provide all relevant material, when they found the letter, why they did not communicate the fact of the letter's existence to senior officers working on the Review.

[Redacted]

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 12:15 PM
To: jamie.lowe [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] jain.anderson [Redacted]
Subject: FW: ppq [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: 1505601PPQ monislettertobrandis.docx

Unofficial

Jamie

We have checked the index of AGD documents for Martin place review very carefully.

The letter is not there.

The report went to PM under a Thawley letter on Friday 29 January. The PM wanted it be end January.

(Then Thawley and Blair Comley formally signed off the copy for printing on 4 February.

PMO says that AG can answer any questions on this issue now that they know the Review Team didn't receive it. PM won't use the attached but you should be aware.

Regards

Allan

Allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ph: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]
(Office: [Redacted]

Monis letter to Senator Brandis

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AGD is now reviewing the history of the events to determine why the letter was not found when AGD were asked to provide all relevant material, when they found the letter, why they did not communicate the fact of the letter's existence to senior officers working on the Review.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 12:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: McKinnon, Allan
Subject: letter - October 2014 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

We have done a thorough search of the AG documents we have here – no record of a letter from October 2014 has been found. If you wanted to double check, you're more than welcome to come and look through the files.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Executive | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

e. [REDACTED]
www.dpmc.gov.au | www.indigenous.gov.au
GPO Box 6500 Canberra, ACT, 2600

[REDACTED]

From: Anderson, Iain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 1:57 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan
Subject: FW: MinCorro - Martin Place Siege [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: List of Man Haron Monis correspondence for AGO.xlsx; All MinCorro Items.pdf

Allan,
 Rang to speak to you before sending it to AGO, but had to send it without talking to you given Q Time.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
 Iain

(Sent with Good (www.good.com)

From: Chidgey, Sarah
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 1:54:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Lowe, Jamie; [REDACTED] Sheehan, Tony;
 Anderson, Iain; Moraitis, Chris; Jones, Katherine
Subject: MinCorro - Martin Place Siege [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

[REDACTED]

Below are points outlining the department's handling of Monis correspondence in the context of the Review and Estimates. I have also attached a spreadsheet listing all correspondence received by the department and indicating those items that were not provided to the review and why not. I have also attached, in a single PDF, copies of all correspondence that we have been able to locate in our electronic systems (this does not include older hard copy correspondence that has been archived).

Sarah

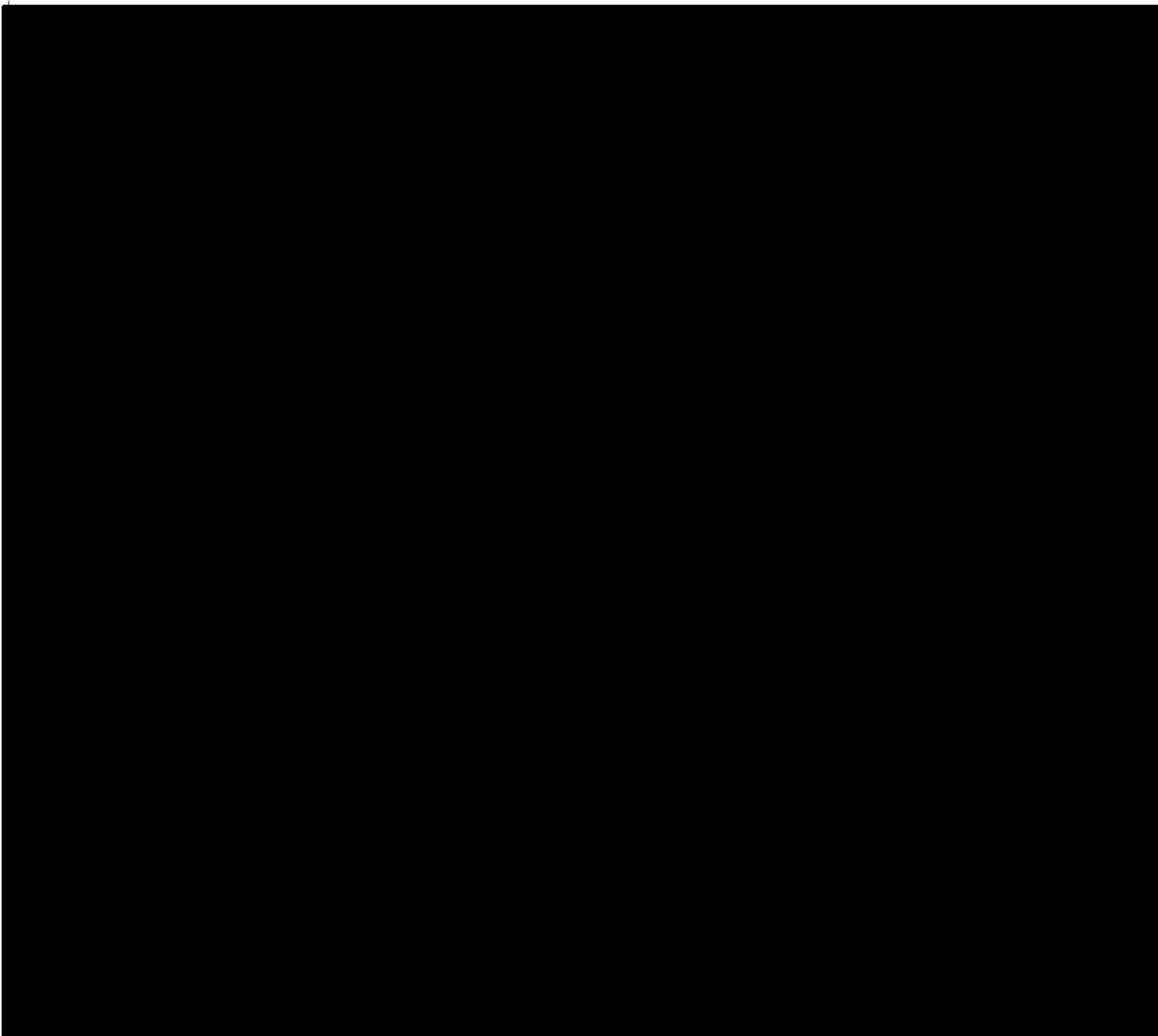
AGD handling of Monis correspondence

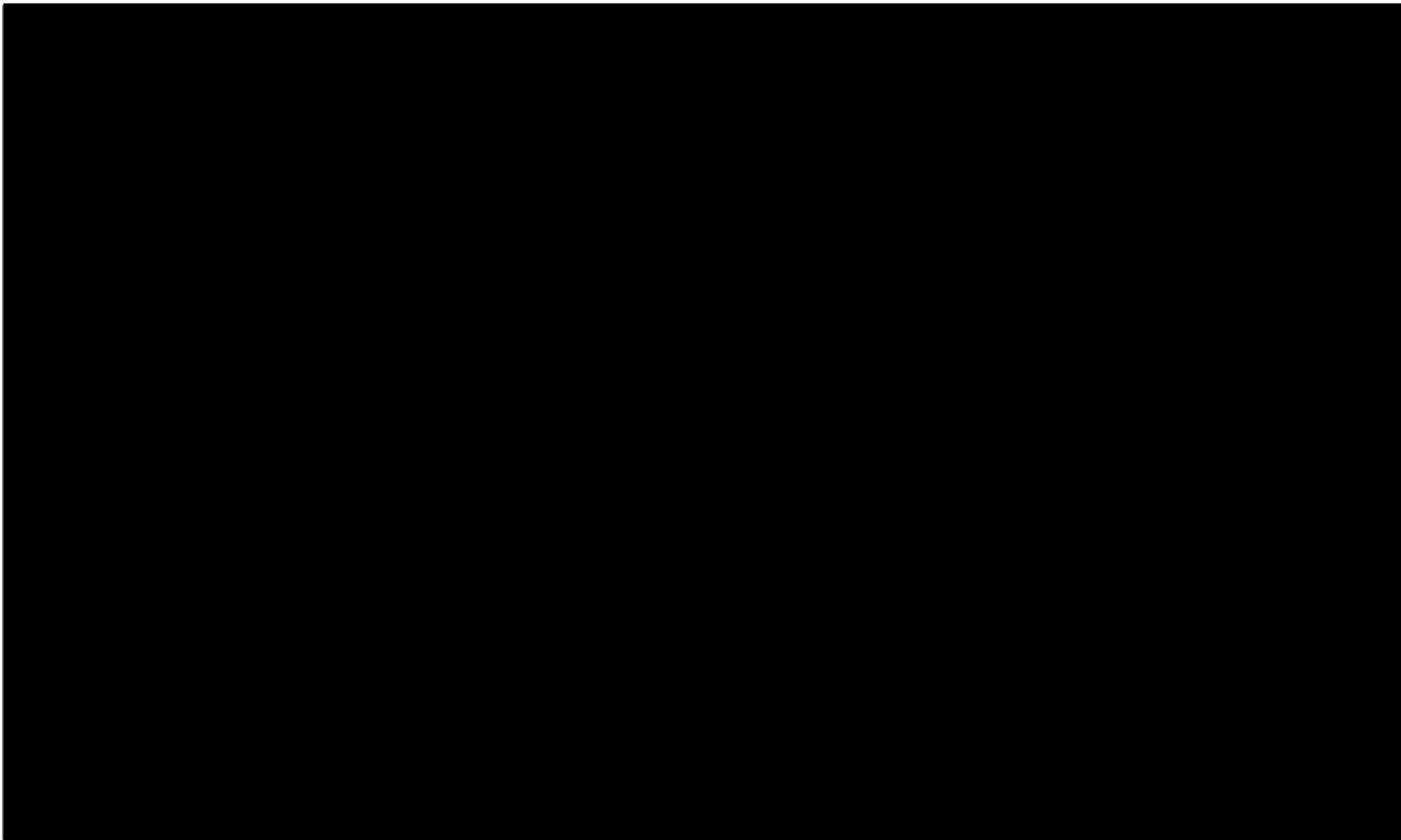
1. In early January 2015, AGD conducted a comprehensive search of all documents and correspondence related to Man Haron Monis and passed relevant documents to PM&C.
2. The correspondence in question (letter from Sheikh Haron dated 7 October 2014) was discovered during this search.
3. On 2 February 2015, AGD became aware that this correspondence had been omitted from the correspondence provided to the Martin Place Siege Review due to an administrative error related to a spreadsheet .
4. On the same day, AGD advised the Review team by telephone that an additional item of correspondence and response had inadvertently not been provided to the Review due to an administrative error. The Review team member responded that the text of the Review had been finalised and AGD therefore did not provide the document.
5. On 27 May 2015 at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Budget Estimates hearing, Katherine Jones, Deputy Secretary, National Security and Criminal Justice Group, AGD, who was also a senior member of the Review, provided evidence that the correspondence "was provided to the review".

6. After further discussions with another colleague on the Review, Ms Jones concluded that her evidence at the Estimates hearing on 27 May 2015 was incorrect and that she was recalling a discussion of a separate document and not the correspondence in question.
7. Ms Jones will correct her evidence to the Senate Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Additional Background

1. On 1 June 2015, the Department became aware that another four items of correspondence had not been provided to the Review. This was due to the same administrative error that occurred in January. These items are:
 - MC11/01714 The assassination of Mr Faruque Ahmed (Attorney-General)
 - MC13/29312 Police Harrassment - Please ask Australian Politicians to leave me alone (Attorney-General)
 - MC13/29810 REFERRAL - An invitation for a live debate (Minister for Justice)
 - MC13/29818 An invitation for a live debate (Attorney-General)
2. The other four items of correspondence have not been provided to the coronial inquiry but the department will do so for any items that are relevant.
3. The department will formally advise PM&C of the documents that were not provided.





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[Redacted]

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 5:30 PM
To: jamie.lowe [Redacted] iain.anderson [Redacted]
Subject: Monis/Brandis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Unofficial

Iain/Jamie

Michael Thawley rang me from PMO. He wanted to know whether AGD had corrected the Senate Estimates record the other night where K Jones had said that he Monis Letter was provided to the Martin Place Review team.

He said that Senator Bishop had repeated the same line today. He wanted AGD to correct the record and to notify Senator Bishops office of the correction.

Thanks Allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ph: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]
Office: [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 6:15 PM
To: jamie.love [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MonisBrandis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Unofficial

The Bishop utterance was in the House.

Thanks for all your help on this.

Allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Ph: [REDACTED]

✉: [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Ph: [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

From: Sheehan, Tony [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 10:36 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan; Anderson, Iain
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Meeting tomorrow morning [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Allan

Will come at 1015.

Many thanks

Tony

(Sent with Good (www.good.com))

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 9:38:43 PM
To: Sheehan, Tony; Anderson, Iain
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Meeting tomorrow morning [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Tony
I have set that time aside. But that also means its free for an important meeting. So come anytime in the span 9:30 and 11:30. I can be pulled away from what i am doing.

Thanks
Allan

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehan, Tony [<mailto:Tony.Sheehan@ag.gov.au>]
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 07:37 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time
To: Anderson, Iain; McKinnon, Allan
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Meeting tomorrow morning

Allan

Do you have time for me and Iain Anderson to come across to see you for 20 minutes or so tomorrow morning between 10 and 11am? I had a message from Jamie you had called and I think it would be easiest if we run through where we have got to in person. Jamie won't make it, but I think I will have all the information we will need.

Regards

Tony Sheehan

Deputy Secretary

Strategic Policy and Coordination Group

Attorney-General's Department

(02) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 12:07 PM
To: Sheehan, Tony; iain.anderson [REDACTED]
Subject: Monis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Unofficial

Have done search.

The other four letters were in our possession. So that's a great start.

Allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Ph: [REDACTED]

F: [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 2:02 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan
Subject: RE: Update on Monis/Brandis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Unofficial

Thanks Allan. Can we discuss one further aspect after QT.

From: McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 1:51 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Update on Monis/Brandis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Unofficial

[Redacted]

AGD has provided us with details of their document discovery process for Martin Place Review.

Through an administrative error there were five documents they failed to hand over.

Four of these, the Review Team had from other sources.

The fifth document, the Monis/Brandis letter which has received all the attention, has now been passed to PMC.

It is like so many other Monis letters, a bit strange, attempting to be provocative and amongst the thousands of other pieces of information absolutely unremarkable. M Thawley has yet to see but I have discussed the letter with him and understands exactly what I mean by that description.

Regards

Allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ph: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]
Office: [Redacted]



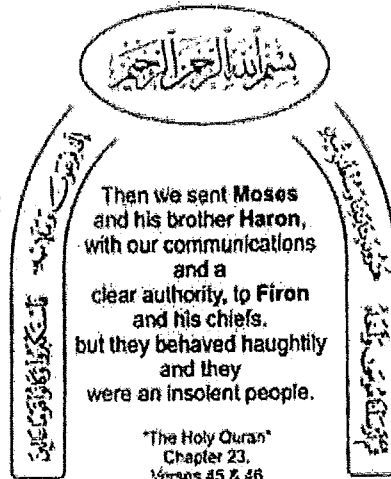
From: Thawley, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 6:39 PM
To: 'Blair Comley'
Subject: Monis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: 150602MonisBrandis October 2014.pdf

UNOFFICIAL

Blair
Here is the exchange.
Best
M.

Sheikh Haron

Muslim Cleric & Peace Activist



Phone/Fax 13000 PEACE - 13000 7322
Email peace@sheikhharon.com

Address PO Box 3409
Liverpool Westfield
2170 NSW, Australia

7 October 2014

Via Registered Mail

Sheikh Haron Website
www.sheikhharon.com

To: Attorney-General George Brandis
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Attorney-General George Brandis,

I would like to send a letter to Caliph Ibrahim, the leader of the Islamic State, in which making some comments and asking some questions. Please advise me whether the communication is legal or illegal.

Thank you

Haron

RECEIVED
09 OCT 2014
BY MCU

AG - RECEIVED

<input type="checkbox"/> Priority A (Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by AG
<input type="checkbox"/> Priority B	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by MFI
<input type="checkbox"/> Priority C	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub Required
<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by CES
<input type="checkbox"/> App. Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept
<input type="checkbox"/> Invitation	Action Area: NSLPS
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to	Init: ES
	Date: 9/10

09 OCT 2014



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

MC14/20587

5 November 2014

Mr/s Sheikh Haron
PO Box 3409
LIVERPOOL WESTFIELD NSW 2170

Dear Mr/s Haron

Thank you for your letter of 7 October 2014 to the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, regarding correspondence with Caliph Ibrahim, the leader of the Islamic State. The Attorney-General has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Islamic State is listed as a terrorist organisation under Part 5.3 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995*. Under the Criminal Code, it is an offence to direct the activities of, be a member of, recruit for, provide training to, receive training from, provide funds to or receive funds from or provide support to, a terrorist organisation. It is also an offence to associate with a member of a listed terrorist organisation in certain circumstances where such association intentionally provides support to that organization. The penalties for these offenses are severe, and could be up to 25 years imprisonment.

The Attorney-General's Department does not provide legal advice to the members of the public and cannot address your specific question about the legality of corresponding with Caliph Ibrahim. Should you have further concerns about the legality of your proposed actions, you might like to consider obtaining professional legal advice.

Yours sincerely

Karen Horsfall
Acting Assistant Secretary
National Security Law and Policy Division

[Redacted]

From: Blair Comley [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 6:48 PM
To: Thawley, Michael
Subject: RE: Monis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

-Original Message-----

From: Thawley, Michael [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 6:39 PM
To: Blair Comley
Subject: Monis [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Blair
Here is the exchange.
Best
M.

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 12:53 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: letter for Michael Thawley [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: 20150604 PM re Man Monis ltr to AG.docx
Importance: High

For Official Use Only

[Redacted] as discussed, and many thanks indeed for your help with this.

Cheers



[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



One National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
(PO Box 6500, CANBERRA ACT 2600)



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Michael Thawley AO
Secretary**

Ref: EC15/376

The Hon. Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

A question was asked in Parliament about a letter to the Attorney General from Man Monis on 7 October 2014 and its availability to the review into the Martin Place siege conducted by me and my NSW counterpart, the head of the NSW Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The letter was not available to us. The Attorney General's Department has investigated the circumstances surrounding this omission and briefed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the result.

It advises that, through an administrative handling error, there was a group of five documents which they failed to hand over to the review team during the document discovery phase.

PM&C has examined these five documents. The review team had four of these from other sources (ASIO and PM&C) and considered them as part of the review.

The fifth document, the letter from Man Monis, was not available at the time.

I have considered this letter against the background of the many other letters that Man Monis sent to politicians and others and the very large volume of other information and documents that were available to us.

I can assure you that the letter would have made no difference to the findings in the review.

I have kept my NSW counterpart informed.

Michael Thawley
June 2015

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Scanned copy - Letter from Secretary to PM (+ message from Secretary) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: 20150406_Secretary Thawley to PM.pdf
Importance: High

For Official Use Only

Hi [REDACTED]

I believe [REDACTED] may have already emailed you a copy of this letter. The Secretary has just come around and asked that I send you a copy and ask you to email a copy to Blair Comley (sorry may have spelt Blair's name incorrect).

Cheers, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Suite MG.8

Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

T: (+61) 02 6277 7700 | W: www.pm.gov.au



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Michael Thawley AO
Secretary**

Ref: EC15/376

The Hon. Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Hon. Minister

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The letter was not available to us. The Attorney General's Department has investigated the circumstances surrounding this omission and briefed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the result.

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I have considered this letter against the background of the many other letters that Man Monis sent to politicians and others and the very large volume of other information and documents that were available to us.

I can assure you that the letter would have made no difference to the findings in the review.

I have kept my NSW counterpart informed.

Yours sincerely

Michael Thawley
4 June 2015

[REDACTED]

From: Chidgey, Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:47 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan
Subject: RE: AGD Secretary letter on Monis correspondence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

That's no problem.

From: McKinnon, Allan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:23 PM
To: Chidgey, Sarah
Subject: RE: AGD Secretary letter on Monis correspondence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Sorry Sarah. Not Saras.

Regards

Allan

Allan McKinnon
 Deputy Secretary
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 Ph: [REDACTED]
 E: [REDACTED]
 Office: [REDACTED]

From: Chidgey, Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:22 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan
Cc: Anderson, Iain
Subject: RE: AGD Secretary letter on Monis correspondence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Many thanks Allan.

Sarah

From: McKinnon, Allan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:22 PM
To: Chidgey, Sarah
Cc: Anderson, Iain
Subject: RE: AGD Secretary letter on Monis correspondence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Saras

That is fine.

Regards

Allan

Allan McKinnon
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ph: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED]

From: Chidgey, Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:08 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan
Cc: Anderson, Iain
Subject: AGD Secretary letter on Monis correspondence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Allan

I've attached a letter from our Secretary to the Attorney-General about the department's search and provision to the Martin Place Siege Review of correspondence from Man Haron Monis. Iain Anderson will call you.

Sarah

Sarah Chidgey
First Assistant Secretary
Strategy and Delivery Division
Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit | Barton ACT 2600
p [REDACTED]
m [REDACTED]

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Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Secretary

4 June 2015

Senator the Hon George Brandis QC
Attorney-General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General

Attorney-General's Department's search and provision to the Martin Place Siege Review of correspondence from Man Haron Monis

I am writing to explain the Attorney-General's Department's search for correspondence from Man Haron Monis and provision of that correspondence to the Martin Place Siege Review (the Review) and to outline measures the department has since taken in relation to the search.

2. Between 5 and 15 January 2015 at the request of the Review the department undertook searches for documents and correspondence relevant to the terms of reference for the Review. This included searches of the department's ministerial correspondence and records management systems.
3. On 14 January 2015, once the documents held by the department relevant to the terms of reference for the Review had been identified and collated, they were passed by the department to the Review team at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). The department further advised the Review on 15 January 2015 that the final element of the search concluded that day had yielded no further documents for provision to the Review.
4. On 2 February 2015, officers in the department became aware that a letter from Sheikh Haron addressed to the Attorney-General dated 7 October 2014 seeking legal advice and the department's 5 November 2015 reply to that letter on the Attorney's behalf had been inadvertently omitted from the correspondence provided to the Review. The officers became aware of this omission following the Australian Federal Police notifying the department that it had come into possession of the letter and the reply while making inquiries.
5. On 2 February 2015 a departmental officer contacted an officer in the Review team at PM&C to advise that some correspondence had inadvertently not been provided to the Review. The Review team member advised that the text of the Review had already been finalised and the department therefore did not provide the two documents. The two documents were, however, provided to the coronial inquiry.
6. On 27 May 2015 at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Budget Estimates hearing, Katherine Jones, Deputy Secretary, National Security and Criminal Justice Group, provided evidence that the correspondence in question was provided to the review. After further discussions with a former colleague on the Review team, Ms Jones concluded that her recollection

was incorrect and that she had been thinking of another document and not the correspondence in question. (Ms Jones was unaware when she gave her evidence that the correspondence in question had been the subject of discussion between officers of the Department and the Review on 2 February 2015.) Ms Jones will correct her evidence to the Senate Committee at the earliest opportunity.

7. In the week beginning 1 June 2015 the department conducted a review of its January 2015 search for, and provision of, documents to the Review to ensure the accuracy of the search and to confirm what had been passed to the Review. It ascertained that the Monis letter and reply had been inadvertently omitted from what was passed to the Review because of administrative error (they were listed in a second tab in a spreadsheet of search results that was overlooked by the officers collating the index of documents for the Review). PM&C has confirmed that the only four other documents identified in the second tab of the spreadsheet that should also have been passed to the Review by the department were passed to the Review by other agencies during the Review.

8. To prevent errors such as that described in paragraph 4 above from occurring again, I have instructed officers in the department to prepare enhanced procedures for searches and provision of documents.

9. Separately, it may be useful for me to outline the steps the department has taken to ensure appropriate awareness and vigilance after the National Public Alert Level was raised to High on 12 September 2014. Measures included:

- advising staff by email of the change in the National Terrorism Public Alert level and encouraging staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity or behaviour
- testing and reviewing lockdown procedures for the Robert Garran Offices
- testing and reviewing the department's Business Continuity, Crisis Management and Heightened Security arrangements, and
- seeking a threat assessment from ASIO in relation to departmental premises.

10. In respect of correspondence, the department carefully assesses each item received on matters relating to national security. Departmental officers liaise with other government agencies, including law enforcement and security agencies, where an item of correspondence raises concerns. The department also has a security policy outlining how officers should respond in the event of a threat.

Yours sincerely

Chris Moraitis PSM

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:48 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Scanned copy - Letter from Secretary to PM (+ message from Secretary) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

[Redacted] many thanks. [Redacted] did send a copy through as well. I really appreciate all the assistance from the Office with this one.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. [Redacted]
e. [Redacted]
One National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
(PO Box 6500, CANBERRA ACT 2600)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:47 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Scanned copy - Letter from Secretary to PM (+ message from Secretary) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Importance: High

For Official Use Only

[Redacted]

I believe [Redacted] may have already emailed you a copy of this letter. The Secretary has just come around and asked that I send you a copy and ask you to email a copy to Blair Comley (sorry may have spelt Blair's name incorrect).

Cheers, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
Suite MG.8
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
T: (+61) 02 6277 7700 | [W: www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au)

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:52 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Copy of correspondence from Michael Thawley [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: 20150406_Secretary Thawley to PM.pdf

For Official Use Only

Dear Mr Comley

Michael Thawley asked that I forward to you a copy of the attached letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. [Redacted]
e. [Redacted]

One National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
(PO Box 6500, CANBERRA ACT 2600)

(:



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Michael Thawley AO
Secretary**

Ref: EC15/376

The Hon. Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Annie Minister

A question was asked in Parliament about a letter to the Attorney General from Man Monis on 7 October 2014 and its availability to the review into the Martin Place siege conducted by me and my NSW counterpart, the head of the NSW Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The letter was not available to us. The Attorney General's Department has investigated the circumstances surrounding this omission and briefed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the result.

It advises that, through an administrative handling error, there was a group of five documents which they failed to hand over to the review team during the document discovery phase.

PM&C has examined these five documents. The review team had four of these from other sources (ASIO and PM&C) and considered them as part of the review.

The fifth document, the letter from Man Monis, was not available at the time.

I have considered this letter against the background of the many other letters that Man Monis sent to politicians and others and the very large volume of other information and documents that were available to us.

I can assure you that the letter would have made no difference to the findings in the review.

I have kept my NSW counterpart informed.

Yours sincerely

Michael Thawley
4 June 2015

[REDACTED]

From: Sheehan, Tony [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 6:19 PM
To: McKinnon, Allan; Anderson, Iain
Subject: RE: Scanned copy - Letter from Secretary to PM (+ message from Secretary) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [DLM=For=Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Allan

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of McKinnon, Allan
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2015 5:44:36 PM
To: Anderson, Iain; Sheehan, Tony
Subject: Scanned copy - Letter from Secretary to PM (+ message from Secretary) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

FYI – please see attached.

Allan McKinnon | Deputy Secretary
Executive | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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