



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Deputy Secretary
National Security and Criminal Justice

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dunstone

Response to questions taken on notice at the public hearing on 3 August 2015 and clarification of evidence

Please find attached the Attorney-General's Department's responses to questions taken on notice at the public hearing of the committee on 3 August 2015.

The proof *Hansard* indicates at page 8 that I gave the following evidence:

Ms Jones: I think PM&C's advice on the Monday was that they had checked the index that PM&C had created of documents received from AGD and that it did not appear on the index.

Mr McKinnon's email of 12:15pm on Monday 1 June advised that 'We have checked the index of AGD documents for Martin place review very carefully. The letter is not there.' Mr McKinnon has subsequently confirmed that he was referring to the index created by AGD.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Jones
6 August 2015

Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Handling of a letter sent by Mr Man Haron Monis to the Attorney-General

Responses to questions taken on notice at hearing on 3 August 2015

1. *Could the department provide a report of when these guidelines have been applied, on how many instances?*

The Guidelines for Ministerial and Agency Websites are applied by the department when putting up ministerial media releases. As the department previously advised on 24 June 2015, it is not possible to provide a figure for the number of ministerial media releases that the department has not put up or taken down as a result of applying the Guidelines.

2. *When did Katherine Jones speak to Mr Moraitis – if at all?*

Ms Jones spoke with Mr Sheehan in person on the evening of Friday 29 May 2015 and by phone on the morning of Monday, 1 June 2015. The substance of this conversation was then communicated by Mr Sheehan to Mr Moraitis on the morning of Monday, 1 June 2015.

3. *Was Katherine Jones at PM&C or back in the Attorney-General's Department on 2 February 2015?*

Ms Jones returned to the Attorney-General's Department from the Review team at PM&C on 2 February 2015 but continued to have involvement with the Review team over subsequent days.

4. *Can you provide copies of any new protocols you have put in place so this does not happen again?*

A copy is attached.

5. *Why were the emails provided at Attachment A of the department's response of 27 July 2015 not provided as part of the department's response of 2 July 2015?*

The emails were detected when officers were compiling copies of correspondence in preparing the department's response to questions on notice which were provided on 27 July. They were assessed to be in scope and so were provided.

6. *Was the search for documents in response to the AFP's request different to the search that had been done for the Martin Place Siege Review?*

The scope of the request for documents made to the department by the AFP was different to the scope of the request for documents made to the department by the Martin Place Siege Review team. In compiling documents in response to the AFP's request, the department took steps to confirm the scope of the request and that the documents satisfied the request.