

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Senator Cameron asked the following question at the public hearing on 9 August 2011:

ACTING CHAIR: Before I go to questions from Senator Humphries, you heard my question about the riots in London and the implications for warning systems and police communications?

Mr Duggan: Yes.

ACTING CHAIR: Would you be in a position to provide an answer on notice as to what would be done here? Would it be a matter that would be discussed by the broadband steering committee?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The primary role of the Public Safety Mobile Broadband Steering Committee is to report on the most effective and efficient way for Australia's public safety agencies to obtain a reliable and robust mobile broadband capability that meets their operational requirements.

As part of its work to fulfil that role the Steering Committee will be undertaking research into national and international operations, arrangements and capabilities in order to ensure the capability is appropriately developed for the Australian context.

It is therefore highly likely that the Steering Committee will discuss the riots in London to identify any possible lessons that can be learnt.