

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

REVIEW OF THE IDENTITY-MATCHING SERVICES BILL 2018 AND THE
AUSTRALIAN PASSPORTS AMENDMENT (IDENTITY-MATCHING SERVICES)
BILL 2018

Questions on Notice

1. Senator David Fawcett asked the following question at the hearing on 3 May 2018:

- a) **Senator FAWCETT:** [Y]ou raised concerns about the security of data, if there was a concentration of data in a hub. Are you aware of any standard of security that would satisfy your concerns in that regard or just on principle do you think that's a risk that is unacceptable? As I took it from your statement, you were almost indicating it was an unacceptable risk to have that much data held in the one place.

The answer to the senator's question is:

- a) With respect to the question of the risks associated with the aggregation of data, the Commission refers to the response to the senator's question given in evidence at the hearing by Commissioner Santow. The aggregation of large amounts of personal information in a single system carries significant risks. Claims that this aggregation is necessary to achieve a legitimate purpose, and that the consequent risks are proportionate to achieving that purpose, must be closely scrutinised and substantiated with compelling evidence. As noted in the Commission's written submission, international bodies have stated that alternative technical solutions to the creation of centralised databases be implemented wherever feasible. In any event, where personal information is aggregated, either by way of a centralised database such as the NDLFRS or via a 'hub', very stringent protections must be put in place to ensure that risks of unauthorised access to, or theft of, personal information are minimised. Necessary protections include: ensuring that only a minimum amount of personal information is retained in and accessible through the relevant database or system; controlling carefully who, and in what circumstances, the information may be accessed; as well as ensuring that the highest standard of technical data-protection systems is implemented. The Commission does not possess technical expertise in relation to particular standards of data security.

2. The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC, MP asked the following question at the hearing on 3 May 2018:

- a) **Mr DREYFUS:** Can you tell me which Commonwealth department administers this document verification services?

The answer to the honourable member's question is:

- a) In evidence given later in the Committee's hearing on 3 May 2018, a representative of the Department of Home Affairs confirmed that that department now administers the document verification service.