



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

3 November 2003

Mr Bob Charles MP
Chairman

The Commonwealth Parliament Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Charles

Additional Response to the Request for Information on Computer Related Security Breaches

Whilst appearing before the Committee on Friday 17 October, I indicated that the Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) had been contacted late for the requested information, and that as soon it was available, this would be forwarded to the Committee. This information has now been collected and is as follows:

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Losses of software and/or hardware

AMSA records show that twenty-one laptop computers and two desktop computers have been stolen or lost since July 1998. The computers had installed versions of standard software but no original software was involved.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

AMSA network security logs have not indicated any external unauthorised access to its computer systems during the relevant time period.

Other significant events involving information technology security

AMSA reports no other significant events involving information technology security during the relevant time period.

Additionally, since appearing before the Committee on Friday 17 October, the Department has received an anonymous message maintaining that a laptop was stolen from the Department.

This laptop computer which the message claims has been stolen is one leased from our service provider and part of a pool of older equipment that is made available to

departmental staff who require a laptop computer on a short-term loan basis. This anonymous advice follows a similar claim some months ago. The service provider has not been able to establish that these claims are correct. We are nevertheless pursuing an investigation into its whereabouts.

Given our earlier conversations and your request that the Committee be kept informed of issues relating to IT security, I consider that it is best that I bring this matter to your attention, though it remains an anonymous claim which has not been confirmed. We will keep you and the Committee advised on the outcomes of our investigation.

Yours sincerely

Peter Yuile
Deputy Secretary