

Question on notice no. 95

Portfolio question number: BE23-096

2023-24 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Attorney-General's Portfolio

Senator Dean Smith: asked the Australian Federal Police on 25 May 2023—

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Senator DEAN SMITH: So the MOU is between the AFP and the Myanmar police.

Mr McCartney: That's correct.

Senator DEAN SMITH: The AFP formally records informal requests and formal requests.

Mr McCartney: Absolutely.

Senator DEAN SMITH: How many informal requests have been received and, I'm correct to assume, therefore recorded, and how many formal requests have been received and recorded since the military coup for each calendar year?

Mr McCartney: I think the best way to categorise it, rather than informal, is as police to police—so it's a police-to-police request for information under that MOU. Then the formal is the mutual assistance request mechanism.

Ms Gale: I can confirm that, since the coup, 296 pieces of intelligence have been provided relating to drug exportation from Myanmar.

Senator DEAN SMITH: That's a valuable piece of information, but my question was on the number of informal requests and the number of formal requests. The 296 is the composite, the cumulative.

Ms Gale: That is the police-to-police requests. I'd need to take on notice the formal mutual assistance requests.

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Mr Kershaw: We'd be happy to provide you a full briefing about the identification of methamphetamine labs, the flow of diverted chemicals into Myanmar, the organised crime groups in behind that and how we actually operate. We're happy to sit down and talk you through all of that.

Senator DEAN SMITH: I am very, very interested in all of that, and one of my future questions, if we get to it this morning, is about what you can share through open source about the flow of methamphetamine from Myanmar to Australia. I hope we'll be able to get to that. How many of the 296 matters have been elevated to the serious—

Mr Kershaw: Sensitive.

Senator DEAN SMITH: yes, sensitive-matters committee for—

Ms Gale: I'd have to take that on notice just to confirm the actual numbers for you.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023 - 2024

Australian Federal Police

BE23-096 - Myanmar Mutual Assistance Requests

Senator Dean Smith asked the following question on 25 May 2023:

1. Senator DEAN SMITH: How many informal requests have been received and, I'm correct to assume, therefore recorded, and how many formal requests have been received and recorded since the military coup for each calendar year?

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Ms Gale: That is the police-to-police requests. **I'd need to take on notice the formal mutual assistance requests.**

...

2. Senator DEAN SMITH ...How many of the 296 matters have been elevated to the serious—

Mr Kershaw: Sensitive. *[Sensitive Investigation Oversight Board]*

Senator DEAN SMITH: yes, sensitive—matters committee for—

Ms Gale: I'd have to take that on notice just to confirm the actual numbers for you.

The response to the senator's question is as follows:

1. Nil **(0)** formal requests for information have been made via the Mutual Assistance process.
2. None of the 296 police to police requests made to the AFP since 1 February 2021 were elevated to the AFP Sensitive Investigations Oversight Board.