



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

17 October 2003

Mr Bob Charles MP
Chairman
The Commonwealth Parliament Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Mr Charles

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

The Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTaRS) has previously supplied a response to this request dated 13 October 2003. In that response DoTaRS indicated the Department also requested information from the National Capital Authority (NCA), Civil Aviation and Safety Authority (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) and Air Services Australia (ASA). This information was to be forwarded to the committee immediately it becomes available.

Additional information has now been provided by the above agencies and this is detailed below.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Over the period July 1998 to June 2003, CASA has had 17 laptop computers stolen. In all cases the theft was the subject of a police investigation but no offenders were apprehended and equipment was not recovered. No losses of software occurred.

There has been one documented unauthorised access to CASA computer systems since July 1998. In the one incident in question, the security of the CASA Intranet Web site was breached by an unauthorised external access on Monday 10 July 2000 at approximately 1400 hours and again at 1420 hours. Evidence of the intrusion was in the form of 'graffiti' over the CASA website, or *script intrusion*. This involved the hacker painting over the CASA introduction page with a message.

As a result, action was immediately taken to shut down the external access to the CASA Internet site while the security breach was investigated. A full security audit was undertaken including an assessment of the incident and potential impact on other CASA systems. As a result of the security reports recommendation, a number of changes to the configuration of the CASA Internet site were undertaken.

At the time of the incident, the CASA Internet site contained unclassified publicly available documents.

As part of the process of resolving the security breach, both the Australian Federal Police and the Defence Signals Directorate were contracted for assistance and advice.

Airservices Australia

Airservices Australia had approximately 1,700 leased desktop computers and 475 leased laptop computers in use at 30 June 2003. Over the period from July 1998 to September 2003 the following computers were lost:

- 10 desktop administrative computers.
- 46 laptop computers.

Apart from the versions of software installed on the computers noted, no original versions of software were lost.

There have been no reported instances of anyone gaining unauthorised access to any Airservices Australia operational or administrative computer systems over the period.

National Capital Authority

The National Capital Authority has reported that there have been no issues of relevance to the inquiry during this timeframe.

Yours sincerely

Peter Yuile
Deputy Secretary