



THE SECRETARY

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Mr Bob Charles, MP
Chairman
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Charles

DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO COMPUTER RELATED SECURITY BREACHES

I write in reference to your letter dated 16 September 2003 seeking details of any breaches of computer security that have occurred in the Department of Family and Community Services and its associated agencies since July 1998.

Your letter advised that the Committee is seeking advice on the following breach categories: losses of software and/or hardware; unauthorised access to computer systems; and any other significant events involving information technology security.

FaCS' response to this request follows:

I. Losses of software and/or hardware

Years	PCs Lost/Stolen	Laptops Lost/Stolen	Other Equipment Lost/Stolen *
2001 - 2003	77	64	3
2000 - 2001	5	24	0
1999 - 2000	12	29	2
	94	117	5

* Other Equipment - 1 compact disc writer, 2 palm pilots, 1 printer and 1 zip drive

151 cases were referred to the police, with no resulting legal action. 3 computers were recovered.

There have been 9 confirmed cases where a laptop contained 'In-Confidence' material. The risk to National Security has been assessed as low.

The majority of equipment was stolen from Centrelink.

II. Unauthorised access to computer systems

There were 17 cases in early 2003 where FaCS staff accessed the Centrelink mainframe without authority.

There were 59 cases of unlawful information access/disclosure at CSA over this period.

III. Other significant events involving IT Security

In 2000-2001, an external party stored image and music files on one of the FaCS FTP servers.

Please note the contact officer for this matter is Mr Tony Mee, Assistant Secretary, Business Information Solutions Branch. Tony Mee's telephone number is 02 6209 7500.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Sullivan
Secretary

17 October 2003