

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 2 MARCH 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Media article

Question reference number: 22 (HS 22)

Senator: Watt

Type of question: Hansard page 43

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 April 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WATT: You mentioned that advice had informally been provided to the minister's office, and that this disclosure was legal under section 202. When was that advice provided?

Ms Campbell: I am not sure we would say 'informal'. I think we would say that the legal advice per se was not provided but that for the policy advice we had legal advice.

Senator WATT: When was that provided?

Mr Hutson: There were a number of pieces of information regarding this matter that were provided to the minister's office. I do not know that I have the actual time when they were provided to the minister's office. I certainly have the dates.

Senator WATT: The critical point here is whether it was before 11:29 am.

Mr Hutson: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

This matter is currently under evaluation by the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The AFP has advised that it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter while it is under evaluation.