



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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USHER OF THE BLACK ROD

2 May 2016

D16/35023

Ms Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley,

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING – 8 February 2016 – Answers to questions on notice

I am writing to provide further information in answer to parts 1-3 of Question on Notice No. 8, asked by Senator Bernardi following the Additional Estimates hearing on 8 February 2016.

The department's answer to QON No. 8, provided 31 March 2016, noted that information had been sought from the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) in order to be able to answer parts 1-3, and that the department had been advised by DPS that it would be providing information about the incidents concerned in response to similar questions asked of it by Senator Bernardi. The department undertook to provide advice as to whether and when the Usher of the Black Rod's Office was informed of the incidents, once the dates and details were clarified by DPS.

The answer subsequently provided by DPS identifies the dates of the incidents (now totaling five), as follows: 25 March 2015, 5 May 2015, 28 July 2015, 30 September 2015 and 16 October 2015. No further details were provided.

On the basis of the dates provided, I can advise that I was informed of the incident of 25 March 2015, on that same day. The details of that incident were provided by DPS representatives in the Additional Estimates hearing. In addition, the Deputy Black Rod's records show that at the Joint Management Group meeting on 31 July 2015 he was informed that a tailgating incident had occurred that week. It is possible that this is the incident of 28 July, although the file note entry is not specific. Neither I nor the Deputy Black Rod have a recollection, or records showing, that we were informed of the other three incidents.

As the details of the four incidents other than the incident on 25 March 2015 are not known to me, I have sought assurance from DPS that they fall within the category of minor incidents that

do not require reporting to my office, and advice whether they give rise to any systemic concerns that I should be apprised of, noting my role as the Department of the Senate's representative on the Security Management Board.

Sincerely

Rachel Callinan