

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

## **Answers to Questions on Notice**

### **Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Procedures for applying for Parliament House passes**

Question: **74**

Written **Senator Wong**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017**

1. On what basis was the decision made to require sponsored passes only one senator or member to nominate an individual, rather than two?
2. How have the new requirements been received by senators, members and applicants for sponsored passes?
3. How has the Pass Office coped with processing requirements for paperwork, particularly police certificates?
4. Does the Pass Office ever follow up a letter vouching for an individual's need to be in the building?

#### **Answer**

1. The Presiding Officers made this decision on 30 November 2016 to address the restrictive requirement for a sponsored passholder to be known to the senator or member for greater than 12 months. A second sponsoring senator or member provides additional assurance regarding the suitability of a proposed sponsored passholder.
2. The Pass Office has received no formal feedback or complaints from any applicants, Senators or Members.
3. The processing of police certificates has entailed no additional workload because this has been offset by the decision to require only one Senator or Member to nominate an individual, instead of two.
4. Yes, insofar as the Pass Office always checks the validity of signatures provided by authorising officers.