

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Heightened security communication strategy**

Question: **184**

Hansard Reference **p 81, 84-85, 20 October 2014**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 December 2014

Senator WONG: Could I put something on notice?

Senator DI NATALE: Yes.

Senator WONG: I think earlier you indicated to the senator that the briefing for building occupants was part of the communication strategy. Is the communications strategy in a written document?

Ms Mills: A draft document was considered by the taskforce to ensure that there was effective communication, and one of the elements in the communication was responsibility for ensuring that occupants in the building were briefed.

Senator WONG: Did DPS prepare that?

Ms Mills: No.

Senator WONG: Who prepared the communication strategy?

Ms Mills: One of the other members of the task force, the AGD.

Senator WONG: The department of—

Ms Mills: The Attorney-General's Department.

Senator WONG: Attorney-General's prepared a communication strategy for what would be happening at Parliament House?

Ms Mills: For all aspects of communication regarding the heightened threat level in Parliament House, as a member of the task force.

...

Senator WONG: You were provided a copy of the communication strategy, Ms Mills?

Ms Mills: I have a draft version. It belongs to the task force.

Senator WONG: Is it possible to table a copy of that?

Ms Mills: No. It is a classified document. It is part of a set. It in itself—

Senator WONG: Whoa! It is a communication strategy.

Ms Mills: It is part of a set of classified documents. I would need to check that I could remove that portion.

Senator WONG: I ask you to be very careful with your evidence, here. Is the document itself classified? Has it been classified by a security agency?

Ms Mills: I will have to check that.

Senator WONG: Don't say it is a classified document if you are not clear. Seriously.

Ms Mills: I said it is part of a set of documents.

Senator WONG: No, you said it is a classified document. It is a communication strategy.

The PRESIDENT: On advice from me, Senator Wong; I don't know whether it is a stand-alone document.

Senator WONG: I will ask that it be tabled. If you wish to redact it, if there are aspects that are classified.

Answer

The draft communication strategy is currently part of a suite of documents marked Protected and was authored by the Attorney General's Department. It is anticipated this question will be considered at the next Taskforce meeting in early 2015 – date to be confirmed.