



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CLERK OF THE SENATE

D15/50668

19 October 2015

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

Dear Ms Beverely

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – 19 OCTOBER 2015**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE**

During the hearing into the Department of the Senate this morning, the Usher of the Black Rod, Ms Rachel Callinan, undertook to provide the Committee with a copy of a letter of complaint received from members of the media in relation to an incident that occurred in March this year. We have located a letter and three emails, dated 3 March 2015, in relation to this incident. I note that they include the name of a DPS officer alleged to have been involved in the incident. Given that, as far as we are aware, the identity of the officer is not a matter of public record, I seek the Committee's agreement for the department to provide copies of the letters with the officer's name redacted.

Senator Wong also asked for information in relation to a meeting that occurred in relation to that incident. The meeting was held on 4 March 2015 and was attended by: Ms Callinan, Usher of the Black Rod; Ms Notzon, Serjeant-at-Arms; Ms Noordeloos, Assistant Secretary, Security, DPS; Mr Baczynski, Deputy Usher of the Black Rod; Mr Catchpole, Deputy Serjeant-at Arms; Mr Ferguson, National Nine News; and Mr Meares, Deputy President of the Press Gallery, Fairfax Media.

As Ms Callinan advised the Committee, the incident was being responded to by the Department of Parliamentary Services under the Work, Health and Safety framework. The Department of the Senate has no knowledge of the progress or outcome of that investigation.

Yours sincerely

(Rosemary Laing)