



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CLERK OF THE SENATE

D15/50685

19 October 2015

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

Dear Ms Beverley

Further to my correspondence earlier today, the following relevant documents are provided in response to Senator Wong's question:

- (a) Letter dated 3 March 2015, from Mr Ferguson, National Nine News
- (b) Email dated 3 March 2015, from Mr Speers, Sky News
- (c) Email dated 3 March 2015, from Mr Meares, Fairfax Media
- (d) Email dated 3 March 2015, from Mr Bowers, Guardian Australia.

We have also located a further letter from Mr Ferguson (e), dated 5 March after the meeting referred to in my earlier letter took place, and a response to that from Ms Callinan (f).

I note that, as agreed to by the Committee, the documents have been redacted to remove the name of the DPS officer identified.

The Department of the Senate was not involved in the follow-up investigation of the incident.

Yours sincerely

(Rosemary Laing)

(a)



3rd March 2015

Ms Rachel Callinan

Usher of the Black Rod

The Senate

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Bronwyn Notzon

Serjeant-at-Arms

House of Representatives

Parliament House,

Canberra, 2600

Cc:

Mr David Spears

President of the Press Gallery

Dear Ms Callinan and Ms Notzon,

I am writing about a very concerning incident at a media function in the Mural Hall this morning.

The Nine Network assigned a camera crew and journalist to cover the function.

Towards the end of the function members of the Executive held impromptu press conferences with members of the media.

One of the press conferences was with the Minister for Communications, Malcolm Turnbull. This took on a mobile form with the media walking backwards as Mr Turnbull moved forward. The restriction bollards and rope were open at the time.

As the press conference moved within a meter of the removed bollard area, Parliament House Security Team Leader, [REDACTED] was observed moving the bollard and rope in the path of the mobile press conference.

actions immediately created a dangerous situation for the Nine Network's sound recordist, Tim Jessop and other members of the Press Gallery who were covering Mr Turnbull's press conference. Mr Jessop had been conscious of the need to be aware of any impediment to the progress of the press conference, in particular of anything that would be unsighted because his colleagues were walking backwards. Last moment actions had neither given Mr Jessop, most other members of press gallery or Mr Turnbull enough time to react to the danger.

Fortunately, no one was injured as Fairfax journalist Latika Bourke managed to avert the potential risk by quickly moving the rope and bollard and TEN Network cameraman, Paul Atkinson alerted his colleagues and Mr Turnbull to stop moving.

Mr Turnbull then warned the members of the press gallery covering his press conference by saying, "You are going to trip over a rope." And when the immediate danger had passed, he added, "You owe your life and limb to Latika."

Fairfax photographer, Alex Ellinghausen observed actions and considered them to be deliberate and reckless. Mr Ellinghausen says immediately after the incident he said to "You did that deliberately." reacted by smiling. This was observed by other members of the press gallery.

actions endangered a member of the Nine Network, Mr Tim Jessop. I have a duty as Bureau Manager of the Nine Network to inform you and request a response.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Ferguson
Bureau Manager
National Nine News
Press Gallery
Parliament House
Canberra. 2600

From: David Speers
Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2015 11:20 AM
To: 'Ferguson, Doug'; Notzon, Bronwyn (REPS); Callinan, Rachel (SEN)
Subject: RE: Murall Hall incident letter

Hi Bronwyn / Rachel,

Could I just add my concerns to those expressed by Doug here.

This is a pretty serious incident involving the safety of media members carrying out their work in an approved media area.

Please let me know how this will be handled. I understand there are photographs of the incident (not to mention CCTV presumably) if that helps.

If indeed there was no deliberate attempt to harm, I need to reassure Press Gallery members.

Regards,
David Speers.

From: Ferguson, Doug
Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2015 11:12 AM
To: Notzon, Bronwyn (REPS) ; Callinan, Rachel (SEN)
Cc: David Speers
Subject: Murall Hall incident letter

Dear Ms Notzon and Ms Callinan,
Please find a letter from the Nine Network regarding an incident in the Mural Hall this morning.
Thanking you,
Douglas Ferguson

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From: Andrew Meares
Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2015 10:49 AM
To: Callinan, Rachel (SEN)
Subject: Roving bollards

Hi Rachel,

An incident involving a roving bollard occurred within the "media related activity allowed, with permission" zone in the Mural Hall this morning.

Communications minister Malcolm Turnbull was speaking willingly to the media at the conclusion of the UN Women breakfast event when Parliament House security guard [REDACTED] was observed dragging a bollard and rope across the path of the media within seconds of the media reaching that point.

As the working media were walking backwards in the conduct of their duties they were unaware that the instant roving bollard had been installed well within the permitted media zone mid-press conference.

Luckily the media spotted the dangerous tripping hazard and journalist Latika Bourke was able to remove the bollard from in front of the Minister. Fortunately no one was harmed nor was expensive equipment damaged.

What is the DPS policy regarding bollards to contain working media throughout the building and precinct?

Why was a bollard and rope secretly dragged to obstruct working media well within the "media relate activity allowed, with permission" zone?

kind regards,

Andrew Meares

cc. Mike Hughes

Andrew Meares
Chief Photographer
Fairfax Media
Canberra Bureau

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From: Callinan, Rachel (SEN)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2015 1:54 PM
To: Baczynski, John (SEN)
Subject: FW: Photography in the Senate

From: Mike Bowers
Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2015 12:31 PM
To: Callinan, Rachel (SEN)
Subject: Re: Photography in the Senate

Dear Rachel and Bronwyn

I am very concerned about an incident which took place this morning in the Mural Hall during the UN women's breakfast 2015 attended by The Prime Minister, Opposition leader, military leaders and parliamentarians.

Minister for communications Malcolm Turnbull gave a doorstep interview after the event to a large media pack. During this interview and while the pack was moving backwards following Malcolm a white shirted parliamentary security guard [REDACTED], moved a roped bollard (one of the ever increasing bollards that seem to be popping up like mushrooms all over the building) into a position behind the pack in a way that was very dangerous and could have injured the cameramen, sound technicians and journalists who were facing the other way.

I have worked on and off in this building since it opened in 1988 and I am struggling to remember an incident as foolish as what I witnessed this morning.

It had the potential to cause injury, showed no duty of care at all to the people who were who were doing their jobs and had the potential to open your department to legal action if it had resulted in serious injury.

I would be grateful if you could tell me if [REDACTED] was following instructions this morning when he did this, I am concerned that someone will be harmed if this type of action is going to become accepted practice in media management around the building.

Yours Sincerely

(e)



5th March 2015
Erin Noordeloos
Assistant Secretary Security
Department of Parliamentary Services
Parliament House,
Canberra, 2600

Ms Rachel Callinan
Usher of the Black Rod
The Senate
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600

Bronwyn Notzon
Serjeant-at-Arms
House of Representatives
Parliament House,
Canberra, 2600

Cc:
Mr David Spears
President of the Press Gallery
Andrew Mears
Vice President of the Press Gallery

Dear Ms Noordeloos, Ms Callinan and Ms Notzon,

Thank you for the meeting yesterday in relation to the incident in the Mural Hall on Tuesday, involving Parliament House Security Team Leader, [REDACTED] and a Nine Network staff member.

I very much appreciated the opportunity to discuss the incident. The Nine Network considers the incident to be a serious occupational health and safety issue and as such would like to request and suggest the following.



The Nine Network requests that the CCTV footage of the incident be viewed as part of the investigation. The Nine Network requests the opportunity to view and assess the CCTV footage of the incident and requests that CCTV footage is saved and archived.

For the purpose of having a comprehensive investigation, the Nine Network suggests that the members of the media that were conducting the mobile press conference be given the opportunity to give evidence to the investigation.

The Nine Network suggests that the investigators provide Mr Malcolm Turnbull the opportunity to give evidence to the investigation. The Nine Network suggests that the investigators view the media footage of the incident. The Nine Network suggests that the investigators view media photographs of the incident.

Thank you once again for the meeting yesterday and your genuine concern. I look forward to the findings of the investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Ferguson
Bureau Manager
National Nine News
Press Gallery
Parliament House
Canberra. 2600

(f)

From: Callinan, Rachel (SEN)
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2015 11:09 AM
To: 'Ferguson, Doug'
Subject: RE: Mural Hall Incident follow
Attachments: Mural Hall Incident Follow.pdf; Mural Hall Incident follow

Dear Doug,

Thank you for this follow up letter. In a similar vein to the answer provided by Bronwyn, I will defer to my DPS colleague, Ms Noordeloos for response as the matters you raise are now within the context of a WHS investigation being conducted by DPS.

Regards,

Rachel

Rachel Callinan | Usher of the Black Rod

Black Rod's Office | Department of the Senate

www.aph.gov.au/senate

From: Ferguson, Doug
Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2015 11:19 AM
To: ; Notzon, Bronwyn (REPS); Callinan, Rachel (SEN); David Spears
Andrew Meares
Subject: Mural Hall Incident follow

Dear Ms Noordeloos, Ms Callinan and Ms Notzon,
Please find the follow up letter to the Mural Hall incident.

Thanking you,
Douglas

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