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Topic: Temporary bollards
Asked: 19 October 2015

Senator WONG: In relation to the Senate entrance, Ms Callinan, who raised it with you, and when?

Ms Callinan: It would have been in about September or October last year. I would have to go back and refresh my memory as to who exactly did. I am aware of the incident you are talking about from a couple of months ago with the bollards moving a little bit too close. I think, because of the temporary nature of the bollards, when they get set out every day there is a bit of variation in how they are set out. I was aware of the media reports at that time and I asked for them to be moved out.

Senator WONG: You will check who raised it with you, in terms of the individual and when. But are you able to tell me which department they worked for?

Ms Callinan: It would have been through Department of Parliamentary Services, security branch, but it was potentially in the context of conversations with various stakeholders in security around Parliament House.

Senator WONG: When you say 'stakeholders', was there any involvement from any ministerial office in making this decision?

Ms Callinan: Not that I am aware of. I would have to check.

Answer

Tensile barriers have been in use during the mornings on sitting days at the Senate Entrance since the first sitting week of this year (9 February 2015).

In late November 2014, the Director, Security Operations, DPS proposed to the Usher of the Black Rod that tensile barriers be used in the mornings on sitting days at the Senate Entrance to delineate a passage into the building and areas for the media to stand, as had been put in place at the House of Representative's Entrance the previous month. The purpose is to improve safety, particularly as comcars arrive and depart, and assist with the orderly flow of people in and out of the entrance at this busy time. The Usher of the Black Rod gave approval for the use of the tensile barriers from the first sitting week of 2015. There was no involvement from any ministerial office in this decision.