

Question: 6
Topic: Car parking
Written: 29 October 2015

Senator WONG asked:

1. Is it correct that at a public service level, allocation of car parks is ultimately the responsibility of the Usher of the Black Rod?
2. What involvement did the Usher of the Black Rod have in the review of car park access undertaken at the request of the presiding officers?
3. Have any changes to the allocation of car parks taken place since the release of the new *Australian Parliament House Private Parking Facilities Access Policy*, approved by the presiding officers on 17 June 2015 and circulated by "DPS Information" on 10 July 2015?
4. If so, what changes?

Answer:

1. While the Usher of the Black Rod has had responsibilities in relation to the car parks on the Senate side of Parliament House in the past, including the allocation of parking spaces, this changed in June 2015. From 25 June 2015 the day-to-day management of all parking within the Parliamentary Precincts rests with the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), and responsibility for allocating car parks in the Senate Car Park and the Senators' Car Park rests with the President.
2. In March 2015 the Presiding Officers wrote to the heads of the four parliamentary departments in relation to the pressures on the private car parks in the precincts. The Presiding Officers asked the Acting Secretary of DPS, in consultation with the other departments, to develop a car parking policy for their consideration and provide advice on related matters. A working group comprising representatives of each department, including the Usher of the Black Rod, and a representative of the Department of Finance in respect of the Ministerial Wing, undertook this task with DPS taking the lead. In late-May the working group provided the outcome of its work to the heads of the parliamentary departments, and they in turn provided a submission to the Presiding Officers on 29 May 2015.
3. Yes.
4. The following changes have been made to the allocation of car parks in the Senate Car Park and Senators' Car Park since the *APH Private Parking Facilities Access Policy* was approved:
 - a. One additional space was allocated in the Senator's Car Park to the Parliamentary Librarian.
 - b. The three 'parents with prams' spaces in the Senate Car Park were converted into two disability parking spaces.

There are 21 parking spaces allocated to the Department of the Senate (5), DPS (10) and the Parliamentary Budget Office (6) in the Senate Car Park. This number has not changed since the policy was approved.

The Department is not aware of whether any changes have been made to the allocation of spaces in the other car parks within the precinct.