

**Question:** 7

**Topic:** Car parking

**Written:** 29 October 2015

**Senator WONG asked:**

1. Is the Usher of the Black Rod made aware of failures of the car park gates?
2. If so, how many failures have been notified in 2015?
3. What steps does the Usher of the Black Rod take, or is aware are being undertaken, to ascertain the cause of each failure?
4. What steps, if any, are undertaken to compensate pass holders who would usually park in the Senate Wing car park, including staff of Senators, staff of the Department of the Senate, and members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, where these pass holders are unable to access the car park and are required to pay for parking?
5. Are parking charges waived or reimbursed under any circumstances?

**Answer**

1. Yes, the Usher of the Black Rod or her office receives notifications of failures of the gates to the Senate Car Park and the Senator's Only Car Park, via a phone call from the DPS Security Branch.
2. While the Usher of the Black Rod does not keep records of each notification, she estimates that she has received approximately eight such notifications in 2015.
3. As the responsibility for the maintenance of the gates rests with DPS, the Usher of the Black Rod does not take steps herself to ascertain the cause of each failure, however, the notifications usually include brief information about the cause of the failure, such as a mechanical failure or a faulty sensor. It is assumed that the relevant section of DPS takes the appropriate steps to ascertain the precise cause of each failure and to address those causes.
4. The Department of the Senate does not take steps to compensate pass holders who are unable to access the car park due to failures of the gates.
5. The Department of the Senate is not aware of any parking charges being waived or reimbursed, except for the reimbursement of parking fees from the Main Front Car Park when a purchase is made from the APH Gift Shop. This is managed by DPS.