

**Question:** 8

**Topic:** Parliament House Security Works Governance

**Written:** 29 October 2015

**Senator WONG asked:**

The response to BE QoN 2 set out the composition of the temporary Australian Parliament House Security Taskforce and listed its purpose as overseeing the implantation of the capital works programme of security enhancements for Parliament House.

1. For how long is this “temporary” body to be in existence?
2. Following the resignation of the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop as Speaker of the House of Representatives, has the President taken over as the Chair, as the senior presiding officer?
3. If not, why not?
4. Was the Black Rod invited to be a member of this body?
5. If not, why not?

**Answer**

1. As noted, the APH Security Taskforce is temporary in nature and has the specific task of overseeing the implementation of the capital works programme of security enhancements for Parliament House. The capital works are ongoing and it will be for the Presiding Officers to determine when the Taskforce is no longer required.
2. The President took over as Chair of the Taskforce in August 2015, chairing his first meeting on 20 August 2015.
3. N/A.
4. The Usher of the Black Rod was invited by the President to be a member of the Taskforce in mid-August 2015 and attended her first meeting in this capacity on 20 August 2015. Prior that meeting the Usher of the Black Rod had attended portions of two meetings, on 29 October 2014 and 2 June 2015.
5. N/A.