

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Unauthorised access**
Question: **22 - amended**
Hansard Reference **p 29, 30-31; 19 October 2015**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

CHAIR: I would like to ask some questions. Ms Noordeloos, perhaps you could rejoin us at the table, because it concerns some questions I asked in May about unauthorised access to car parks. Clearly, it was conveyed to me and to the committee that there was a single incident where a pass holder had been tailgated through and the car entered into the car park. It was a mistake and there were no further dramas attached to that—that is my terminology. Did the people in that car access the building?

Ms Noordeloos: In that car? Recollecting the incident, I do believe they came up into the front foyer area, but I am not sure. I do not believe that they were able to progress any further. I would have to go away and check the incident report; I am sorry.

CHAIR: It has been suggested to me that a person involved in that incident actually gained access to the private areas of Parliament House. Are you saying that did not happen?

Ms Noordeloos: I would need to go and check the incident report in that circumstance.

...

Ms Noordeloos: I can recollect that at the same time or a similar time there was an issue with someone being escorted as a guest who had not yet signed in, I should say, and was being escorted and shown the way, and then they realised there was an issue and brought them straight back, but I would need to go and check the exact issues, because I do not want to conflate any incidents.

CHAIR: They were separate incidents, though?

Ms Noordeloos: I would need to go and check to make sure I am not conflating incidents in my mind.

...

Ms Noordeloos: It was something that I have a recollection of, in terms of a discussion—

CHAIR: A recollection?

Ms Noordeloos: A recollection, in my mind. I am sitting here; I do not have an incident report in front of me. What I am doing is casting my mind back and thinking about discussions about passes and access and pass issues—whether or not I heard the potential for it after the hearing in May, so I need to follow up.

CHAIR: Ms Noordeloos, we have spent a year talking about DPS, security issues, the changes to security, the implications of it, the staffing problems, and you have a recollection of someone just wandering in?

Ms Noordeloos: It is not someone just wandering in in that circumstance, but, as I said, I will go away and quickly get the details and I will provide that for you.

Answer

In the incident concerned, the individual entered the foyer area. Once in the foyer, the individual was screened through x-ray and magnetometer but at the time was mistaken for a Member by one officer and the other officer thought they had already been signed in and were under escort by a nearby Member. Therefore the individual was not signed in with an escorted pass.

It is not clear whether the individual was escorted at all times but the individual was later brought back for a pass by a Member.

The risk to Parliament House in this incident was low; and we stress the individual was screened. However DPS take it as a serious security concern. The competency for all Parliamentary Security Officers to achieve recognition of all Members and Senators is closely assessed on an annual basis and is under review for effectiveness. The officers at the time were requested to review their actions and were counselled by their team leaders.