



1 June 2009

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Senator Anne McEwen
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Environment
Communications & the Arts
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McEwen

At last week's Budget Estimates hearing Senator Fielding requested further details about a review that was being by conducted by Australia Post into the Corporation's passport application interview procedures (Hansard reference ECA 23).

Immediately following the arrest of the Australia Post staff member at Fairfield a review into the incident by senior Australia Post staff from the Corporate Security and Commercial Divisions was launched.

The review examined the specifics of the incident, the policies and procedures in place, their effectiveness and any changes required to them.

As part of the review, Australia Post has had numerous discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

These discussions indicated that DFAT were satisfied with the procedures and policies currently in place and that the AFP were satisfied with the assistance provided by Australia Post.

Discussions with DFAT have been occurring weekly with a meeting scheduled later this month to finalise the review.

At this stage the review has not found any evidence to suggest that the Fairfield case is anything more than an isolated incident and DFAT have expressed confidence in Australia Post's current policies and procedures. Any request to modify these by DFAT or the AFP would be acted on as a matter of priority.

Should the Committee require any further information we would be happy to oblige.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McCloskey'.

M McCloskey