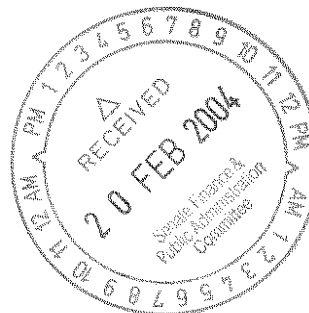


20 February 2004

Mr Alistair Sands  
Secretary  
Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Sands

**ESTIMATES HEARING, MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2004**

I would like to clarify my response to a point raised by Senator Brandis at this hearing in relation to the reasons why the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) did not obtain a valuation of Centenary House.

By way of background, at the Committee's hearing of 29 May 2003, Senator Brandis suggested "that perhaps you have the freehold of the building valued". The Chair then stated that he did not "think it is Mr Winder's duty to value the building."

Hansard of that hearing records, among other things, as follows:

**Senator Brandis** - ...I thought I would give you a new angle,.....a new argument, because it seems that there is one.

**Mr Winder** - I need to take advice on whether it is appropriate for us to value the freehold. I am not sure whether it is.

and finally,

**Senator Brandis** - ...I asked Mr Winder if he would take those matters into consideration and he has indicated that we would.

What I was going on to say in response to the line of questioning from Senator Brandis at the Committee hearings on 16 February 2004, was that the ANAO had considered obtaining a valuation on the grounds of whether obtaining one would be of advantage to the ANAO in its legal position to persuade the lessor to review the terms of the lease.

The legal advice that we provided to the Committee was that it would not be of any advantage to this position. This is the only reason the ANAO did not obtain a valuation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Winder', written in a cursive style.

Oliver Winder  
Acting Auditor-General