

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation  
Committee—Supplementary Budget Estimates 2005-06,  
February 2006**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary  
Services**

**Topic: Access to slip roads by emergency services**

**Question P4**

Senator Webber asked:

- 1 Can the Committee be informed of the arrangements regarding the access of Emergency Services vehicles to the Parliamentary precinct?
- 2 For example in the instance of a Senator or member of staff requiring an ambulance, will the ambulance be obliged to access the building only via Security Point 1?
- 3 Does this raise the possibility of a person being transported on a gurney through the building to the basement car park?
- 4 If an Emergency Services vehicle needs access to the building via the Senate, House of Representatives or Ministerial entrances how will such access be granted?
- 5 If an Emergency Services vehicle is granted access will both sets of bollards be lowered simultaneously or will the standard operation continue, that being that one set of the bollards is lowered at a time?
- 6 When a vehicle moves past the first row of bollards and has to wait until the second row of bollards retract, it is not possible to see when the second bollard has retracted completely. Has this issue been raised with the Department? If so what actions have taken place?

**Answer**

- 1 Security operational staff are informed of the need for an emergency services vehicle to enter the building precinct. Extra staff are directed to the appropriate entrance to ensure the bollards are lowered in time for the vehicle to enter quickly.
- 2 No, access is available via the entry closest to the incident.
- 3 Security Point 1 and the Basement Public Car Park would only be used by emergency services vehicles if it was closest to the incident or otherwise more convenient.
- 4 See the answer to Question 1.

5 Both sets of bollards can be lowered simultaneously.

6 Departmental staff are currently considering how the visibility of the second row of retracting bollards might be improved or how drivers can otherwise be assured that it is safe to cross the second row of bollards.