

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Budget Estimates May 2007

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

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Topic: Appropriations and Staffing Committee and non-security issues

Question P10

Senator MURRAY—So I would ask you, on notice, to consider whether the Appropriations and Staffing Committee should look at the non-security issues that have been raised here, as opposed to the purely security ones, which relate to how a police check occurs, what happens, and so on.

Ms Penfold—I am not sure that it is up to me to decide what the Appropriations and Staffing Committee looks at, but—

Senator MURRAY—Let me rephrase the question. I would then ask the President to think about that. I do not think it is something that you need to do immediately. I think this is more sensitive than is apparent on the surface.

Answer

The Presiding Officers have previously announced that they have decided not to proceed with requiring police checks for those categories of photographic passholders who do not already have police checks as part of their employment.

However, the Presiding Officers are considering options to make clearer the obligations passholders have, especially passholders' personal responsibility for the conduct while in Parliament House of any person the passholder signs in on a temporary basis.

It is the President's intention to seek the views of the Appropriations and Staffing Committee on any significant change to pass policy.