



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Deputy Secretary
National Security and
Criminal Justice**

20 March 2008

Mr Peter Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan

At the Senate Estimates hearings of 18 February 2008, Senator Payne asked a series of questions about the Attorney-General's Department seconding or placing staff in the Office of National Security (the Hansard transcript is attached). I indicated that, with respect to the establishment of the Office, this Department had not seconded any staff.


It is a fact that secondments from this Department were not required or sought as part of the establishment of the Office.

However, it has been brought to my attention that an officer from the Information Coordination Branch of the Protective Security Coordination Centre commenced a secondment with the Office on 18 February 2008. He has been placed as a liaison officer for a recent critical infrastructure exercise and to assist with a range of other issues. This secondment is for an initial period of six weeks but, after review, may extend to up to six months.

A second AGD officer commenced a secondment to the Office on 25 February 2008, to work on the Homeland and Border Security Review which is being conducted by Mr Ric Smith AO PSM. The Review is due to report by 30 June 2008.

I trust this additional information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Miles Jordana
Deputy Secretary