

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 98

Senator Xenophon asked the following question in writing:

What communication did you have with Alan Kessing when the article in *The Australian* was published?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

There was no communication with Mr Kessing by Australian Customs and Border Protection Internal Affairs regarding the article in *The Australian*. Customs and Border Protection were not aware at this time that Mr Kessing was the source of the disclosure.

As previously advised, the letter referring the matter to the Australian Federal Police incorporated a chronology of events leading to the publication of an article in *The Australian* on 31 May 2005. The chronology made reference to Mr Kessing as having been involved in the production of the report. Customs and Border Protection's Internal Affairs Unit did not undertake an independent investigation of Mr Kessing.