

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

Question No. 10

Senator Ronaldson asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Senator RONALDSON: Is the union making demands about what you can or cannot do in relation to these officers who are under investigation?

Mr Pezzullo: I am not aware of any demands that they have made.

Senator RONALDSON: They have not, for example, told you that no-one can be stood down until the process is finished?

Mr Pezzullo: Not to my knowledge, but in any event it is not a position that I would—

Senator RONALDSON: Is anyone else in the room able to answer that question for me, if you cannot?

Mr Pezzullo: Whether or not the union has stated that in correspondence—they are corresponding with us all the time—it is not a position that I would adopt.

Senator RONALDSON: I am asking you a quite simple question: Has the union demanded that no-one be stood down until this process is finished—yes or no?

Mr Pezzullo: I am not aware of any such—

Senator RONALDSON: You will take it on notice?

Mr Pezzullo: Yes, I will check.

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

Customs and Border Protection Service has had no general representations from the CPSU regarding current misconduct investigations. An individual who is the subject of an inquiry into alleged misconduct is entitled to be assisted by a support person at any interview conducted in relation to that inquiry. Such support persons may or may not also be union representatives or union delegates. The agency has briefed the unions regarding the measures being introduced to strengthen integrity and address misconduct and corruption. The unions have also been briefed on the form of action we would take in cases where we are investigating possible misconduct or corruption.