

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 9

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:

What was the Chinese position regarding 'flame attendants' during negotiations?

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

Senator Ludwig provided the following answer to this question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:

“Firstly, these questions, as I have indicated, will not be answered, and the public interest immunity is claimed on that basis: that disclosure of private discussions with China could reasonably be expected to damage international relations. This is consistent with previous practice. Paragraph 2.32 of the government guidelines for official witnesses is the relevant paragraph. Secondly, as I said, the Chinese government would have an expectation that private discussions with the Australian government about security arrangements would remain private and that public disclosure of such discussions could damage our relations with China.”