

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 29

Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator TROOD: I see. I know we have discussed on previous occasions the problems of retention rates within the Afghan force. Do you keep statistics on retention rates of people you train?

Mr Negus: No, I am afraid we do not have them with us. I am sure that in country we would be able to source them, but we do not have them with us today.

Senator TROOD: Perhaps you could take that on notice. I think that I have asked you about retention rates on previous occasions and you have been forthcoming about them.

....

Senator TROOD: So your impression is that the retention rates, which have been a problem consistently, remain a problem. Is that—

Mr Negus: Again, I would like to look at the statistics.

....

Mr Negus: One of the officers here is involved in International Deployment Group and I was just checking whether he had any details, but unfortunately, like me, he does not have any update on the attrition rates.

Senator TROOD: Okay. If you can find them somewhere and let me have them later in the day, I would be grateful to you.

....

Mr Drennan: Senator, if I can just add that in relation to the attrition rates, I have been advised that we will not be able to get those for you during the current hearing. We will need to get those from the coalition in Afghanistan but we will certainly take that on notice and provide them to you as soon as possible.

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

As the AFP is part of a NATO led mission, attrition rates for the Afghan National Police have been sought from the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTMA). NTMA advise that for the months of February, March and April 2011 the attrition rate averaged 1.13% per month.

In February 2011 the total attrition was 1167 personnel from a total workforce of 115,128 (1.01%). In March 2011 the total attrition was 1160 personnel from a total workforce of 118,066 (0.98%). In April 2011 the total attrition was 1730 personnel from a total workforce of 121,519 (1.42%).

These figures represent a total attrition rate in the vicinity of 3.43% for the three months indicated.

The average total workforce for February, March and April 2011 was 118,238. The total attrition numbers for these months was 4057 personnel. If this rate of attrition was to be averaged over a 12 month period, it is estimated that the attrition rate would be in the vicinity of 13.725%, or approximately 16,228 personnel.