

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 38

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

Mr Drennan: No, the regime we put in place—and I will deal with the two aspects again—following [the evaluation of the Wikileaks material to see whether there was sufficient material to commence an investigation] was that we provided what I would call a template for departments to use as an assessment tool so they could themselves assess what potential criminality might exist in regard to a cable once it was released to the public and then they could refer it to us so that we could then evaluate it and see whether it warranted investigation. As far as the task force went, yes, that is on a virtual basis and then on an as-needs basis.

Senator LUDLAM: When was the last time that you considered you had staff or officers working on the WikiLeaks issue directly? I should not say that. To be more specific, on issues that were raised as a consequence of the document drop?

Mr Drennan: We notified Mr Wilkins on 17 December that the investigation was complete. I do not have the exact detail of how long after that it was to just tidy up those aspects, but it would not have been a very long time after that.

Senator LUDLAM: So there is really nothing ongoing.

Mr Drennan: There is nothing ongoing at the present time in regard to investigations, no.

Senator LUDLAM: If you were able to scrub that document of anything that was operationally sensitive, would you be able to provide the committee with a copy of the template that you refer to?

Mr Drennan: Yes, I do not think there is any issue with that. It is very much about what are the types of offences that may exist and what the essential elements of those offences are.

Senator LUDLAM: That would be much appreciated. I am not seeking specifics of any of the particular things you are investigating, but the form that you were using to do that evaluation would be appreciated.

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

The de-identified template (assessment tool re criminality in cables & whether investigation is warranted) was distributed as an Aide Memoir to other Departments and Agencies by the Australian Federal Police on 16 December 2010.

The Aide Memoir is attached as requested.