

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Output 2.1**

**Question No. 42**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:**

Please provide further details regarding the protocol for referring 'politically sensitive matters' to the AFP.

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

The procedures for referring politically sensitive matters to the AFP for investigation have been in place for many years. They were first initiated by the Australian Government in 1979, and have since been confirmed by all successive governments.

They are contained in Guideline 4 of the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines* issued by the Minister for Justice and Customs in May 2002 under Regulation 19 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997*. A copy of the Guidelines can be downloaded from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department web site at:  
[www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Fraudcontrol\\_CommonwealthFraudControlGuidelines-May2002](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Fraudcontrol_CommonwealthFraudControlGuidelines-May2002).