

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
CRIMTRAC AGENCY

Question No. 19

Senator Seselja asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

Senator SESELJA: So the \$111 million there at the moment is there for CrimTrac's purposes. Does that mean it gets reinvested into expanding the operations of CrimTrac? It is quite a large amount to have in one agency's reserve fund.

Mr Smith: It certainly is and of course that attracts attention. But the purposes which are outlined in section 5 of Senator Minchin's directive largely state that it is there for the business of providing information services to the police forces—the partner agencies. What we have done recently with CrimTrac, with the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Finance, is establish an investment path for all those funds out for the next 10 years. So we have an investment strategy. We have a series of strategic plans that we will be taking forward to both the board and to the standing council of police ministers.

Senator SESELJA: Sure. So just casting back then over the last six years, and this may be on notice: are you able to tell us how much of the reserve fund has been reinvested into expanding the operations of CrimTrac?

Mr Smith: I would have to take that on notice because at the end of each financial year CrimTrac, historically since 2006, has always been in a surplus position. But as to what has been there for a capital investment—systems investment as opposed to day-to-day operations—I will need to take that on notice. Can you indicate what period? Back to 2006?

Senator SESELJA: Yes, back to 2006 is fine.

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

Capital expenditure for CrimTrac incorporates expenditure for enhancements, asset replacement and new acquisitions, that is eligible for capitalisation under the Australian Accounting Standards. This expenditure has been funded from cash accumulated for this purpose in the special account.

Capital expenditure for CrimTrac since 2006 is as follows:

- 2005-06 - \$5.619m
- 2006-07 - \$3.923m
- 2007-08 - \$5.821m
- 2008-09 - \$19.747m
- 2009-10 - \$15.102m
- 2010-11 - \$7.918m
- 2011-12 - \$3.138m
- 2012-13 - \$7.954m