

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 28**

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

**Senator LUDWIG:** Thanks very much. On notice, could you tell me the number of cases plus the length of time that they have been with you since the DPP gave you and how long the DPP had them. Some of them would go back many years earlier. The DPP explained that some of them may have been held up because of pending criminal prosecutions. I am happy for you to note those and for you to note the ones for which you are waiting for some other piece of information to arrive before you can finalise them. It seems to me that there are a few that go back quite a few years. There is one in particular, so it depends on how much you can talk about a particular individual case. I am not inviting you to if you cannot or if it is an operational matter. But I am more interested in the administration rather than the actual case. The only press release that you ever issued in respect of a matter was in 2006. It said that you seized planes, trains and automobiles—it had some such heading. It would have been referred to the DPP and now it seems to have come back to you. That dates back to 2006 at least, administratively, where is that matter up to?

**Mr Colvin:** We will have to take some of that on notice. It is fair to say that some matters are quite lengthy. A matter from 2006 would probably not be the oldest matter that we are still dealing with. The matter that you are referring to, if my memory serves me correctly, is actually before the Supreme Court in Queensland at the moment, so I would be loath to make too much comment on that. But we can bring back to a list of the cases that were referred to us and where they are at and to the best extent possible those 132 matters, which would be varying each and every day.

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

58 files were transferred from the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) to the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The AFP has finalised 24 of 58 files.

The first file was transferred from the CDPP to the AFP on 19 March 2012. This matter was finalised 25 January 2013.

The last file was transferred from the CDPP to the AFP on 17 December 2012.

The oldest file transferred from the CDPP commenced proceedings on 8 May 2003 and this matter has been running for approximately 10.5 years. This file was transferred to the AFP 17 December 2012.

It is not appropriate for the AFP to provide a breakdown of each active litigation matter, due to ongoing court proceedings. It is very difficult to determine the approximate length of a litigation matter as several factors may affect the length of litigation in the circumstances of each case including court availability and related criminal proceedings.

As at 28 November 2013 POCL had 138 active litigation files.