

Reference: 2011/18

Ms Christine McDonald  
Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Dear Ms McDonald,

I am writing regarding the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee Interim Report dated June 2012.

The Archives is concerned that the summary of evidence as outlined in the report does not clarify the Archives' position regarding records created by the architects responsible for the design of Parliament House, Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorp Architects.

Further to the Archives' letter to the Committee dated 20 November 2011, the Archives would like to reaffirm that the records referred to by Ms Pamille Berg in her testimony to the Committee (see *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2011, p.15) are not in the Archives' custody. The Archives is not able to provide any further information at this time as to where the records might be.

The Archives has completed a thorough investigation of all the Parliament House design and construction records in our holdings and of the documentation relating to their transfer. We have not been able to find any evidence that the records referred to by Ms Berg were ever transferred from the controlling authority to the Archives or have at any time ever been in the custody of the Archives.

I trust that you will be able to ensure that the Committee is aware of this clarification in relation to the concerns raised in the Committee about the handling of these records.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Stephen Ellis  
Assistant Director-General  
Operations and Preservation  
National Archives of Australia

16 August 2012