PARLIMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 1

The Committee asked the below question at the hearing on 8 August 2012:

CHAIR: If there were any allegations of waste in any of those operations, the audit committee would be the appropriate body to deal with that?
Mr Zuccato: That is right. Then we have a range of independent audits that are conducted by our internal audit branch—I can remember the acronym but not the exact title. We have an audit branch and performance management area that sit within the AFP and on occasion we conduct independent internal audits. I would be surprised if the IDG has not been the subject of one of those or probably, indeed, of many. We on occasion are audited by the Audit Office. Again, as I do not have the information at my fingertips, I will take that on notice and I can provide you with some information in relation to the audits that have been undertaken both internally and externally. With respect to things like the IDG and the international network I can say that last year we undertook an audit of the international network to make sure that it was tracking well. So there are a range of mechanisms we apply to make sure that we have good governance and if there is waste identified that that is rectified.
CHAIR: I only ask those questions because we have previously dealt with the aspect of corruption but not the other aspect of how funds are being managed.
Mr Zuccato: Certainly. Would it be appropriate, if your committee so pleases, for us to provide you with some information in relation to that?

CHAIR: That would be great, thank you.

The answer to the Committee's question is as follows:

ANAO audit reports and Internal Audit reports in relation to AFP overseas operations have not identified any allegations of wastage.

ANAO and AFP records indicate that the ANAO has conducted three AFP specific audits covering an element of AFP overseas operations (Fighting Terrorism at its Source – 2012, Management of New Policy Initiatives (NPIs) – 2011 and AFP Overseas Operations – 2007). No findings or recommendations were made in relation to wastage. One efficiency related recommendation was made, relating to improving the overall management and monitoring of all NPIs.

The Internal Audit team have completed 24 audits since 2001 that have focused on some element of overseas operations. No findings or recommendations were made in relation to wastage.
11 efficiency related recommendations were made – these primarily related to improving budget monitoring.