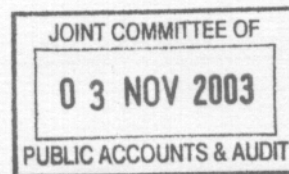


- 3 NOV 2003



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Submission No. 91

Mr Bob Charles MP
Chairman
Joint Committee of
Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Charles

Bob,

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COMPUTER RELATED
SECURITY BREACHES SEC613/03

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the JCPAA dated 30 September 2003, requesting details of any security breaches that have occurred in the Department of Veterans' Affairs and associated agencies since July 1998 in relation to:

losses of:

software: there were no reported instances.

hardware: 3 laptops were lost, 13 laptops and one printer were reported stolen and one personal computer had some of its components removed. The incidents were investigated either by police and staff and concluded with no recovery of equipment, apprehension or prosecution of an offender.

unauthorised access to computer systems:

There have been no instances of unauthorised access to computer systems. However, there have been random instances of virus attacks and spam e-mail, and these have been detected by effective mitigating strategies and security controls to reduce the threats and risks to its computer systems.

any other significant events involving information technology security:

The Department and associated agencies have not been exposed to any other significant events that would compromise its security apart from random virus attacks and spam e-mail.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mr Bob Hay, Chief Information Officer on (02) 6289 6673.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danna". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

DANNA VALE MP

28 OCT 2003