

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE — Budget Estimates Hearing, 27 October 2020
ASD

QoN	Senator	Broad topic	QuestionText	WrittenHansard	Page
1	Rex Patrick	Senator Lambie's Questions on Notice	<p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you very much. I'll just move to one more topic. It goes to Senator Lambie's question on notice: ASD is prohibited by legislation from producing intelligence on Australian persons except in rare circumstances. How many times have those rare circumstances occurred? Let me explain to you why I think it is really important to be open and transparent about this. I'm going to simply ask you: how many ministerial authorisations have been made? I'll go no further than that. I'm interested in quantum. If you are having a thousand ministerial authorisations a year, I think that's hugely problematic. If you've got one or two, I think that's fine. That's all I want to go to with that question.</p> <p>Ms Noble: The number of ministerial authorisations that are sought each year and agreed to by the minister is actually published in our secret annual report that is provided to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. I'm not on that committee, and you would appreciate—and I know as a former military person—that just because a document has a 'secret' stamp on the front and the back doesn't mean that every word in it is secret. So let's just focus on the number. What would be the harm in releasing that particular number? I'm looking at the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act reports. I can see exactly how many warrants ACLEI have sought, how many the AFP have sought and how many Home Affairs have sought. It doesn't go into operational details; it's just a check that allows the parliament to see exactly how many of these are being used. I'm just after quantum.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you want to take that on notice or consideration?</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Chair, it's already been taken on notice; that's the issue.</p> <p>CHAIR: Oh, right.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Senator Lambie asked the question. I'm trying to get to the harm that would be caused by revealing that number—just that number on its own.</p> <p>CHAIR: You might get that answer on notice, but we have gone over time with you, Senator. I think, in fairness, that discussion ought to be stopped there. We'll have an answer on notice either with a number or, if there's no number, undoubtedly with a justification as to why the number is not being supplied.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Can I just ask—because in effect you'd be advancing a public interest immunity claim—that it be in accordance with the Cormann motion, where you set out what the harm would be in releasing that number, please.</p> <p>Ms Noble: I understand.</p>	Hansard	89
2	Timothy Ayres	Watering Hole attack	<p>Senator AYRES: Ms Noble, would you or one of your colleagues be able to set out for the committee what a watering hole attack is?</p> <p>Mr Hanmore: Essentially it's where a website, ordinarily it's a website, is used to entice potential victims in a way that they would ordinarily expect to be there. It can occur in a couple of different ways. One would be a fake site deliberately set-up that would be of interest to a target audience. Another way can be where a legitimate site is compromised and then co-opted by the adversary to deliver ordinarily malicious</p>	Hansard	91

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			software on to that target a victim's computer or mobile phone so that they can then go about their malicious business. Senator AYRES: Thank you. There was a significant attack that targeted Parliament House in 2019 and that was the pathway that was used for that attack. Is that right? Mr Hanmore: I would have to check the details on that. I am sorry.		
3	Timothy Ayres	Website – chinainquiry.com.au	Senator AYRES: The Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth is currently undertaking an inquiry that's entitled Inquiry into Diversifying Australia's Trade and Investment Profile, which is chaired by the member for Dawson, Mr Christensen. In parallel with the inquiry, the member for Dawson has set up a website at the URL chinainquiry.com.au. It's not a formal website of the parliament; it's a website that he has set up. It asks members of the community to submit their views on what the member describes as 'China's economic infiltration of our nation.' The website is privately hosted outside the government network and is registered to the company UTI RELIEF, a company in which Mr Christensen has a financial stake. Has ASD been asked to provide any security or risk assessment for this website? Ms Noble: Not that I am aware of. Unless my colleagues—we can take that on notice and check that. Senator AYRES: Would you take it on notice? Ms Noble: Yes, we can.	Hansard	92
4	Concetta Fierravanti-Wells	Inquiry into the foreign relations bill	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: In conclusion, recently, we had an inquiry into the foreign relations bill. Whilst ASD didn't give evidence, I am sure that you or members of your staff were aware of the hearings. I wonder if we could trouble you to have a look at the evidence that was given and see if there is anything there that you feel you would like to contribute to the evidence. I thought we explored some diverse issues, particularly in relation to universities and local governments and how we could increase transparency there—and certainly there are challenges. We also looked at the possibility of not just another scheme but potentially augmenting a fixed scheme. So your views in relation to that would be most valuable. Ms Noble: I would be happy to.	Hansard	93
5	Bridget McKenzie	Public servants working from home during COVID-19	What is the number of public servants working from home for each month from the Department?	Written	
6	Bridget McKenzie	Measuring productivity during COVID-19	How has the Department measured increased, static or declining productivity and what are the conclusions from that measure?	Written	
7	Bridget McKenzie	Comparative sick days for staff prior and during COVID-19	What is the number of sick days from the Department with a work-from-home workforce for each month of the lockdown and the corresponding sick days for the corresponding months in 2019?	Written	
9	Kimberley Kitching	Cyber threat to Australian healthcare providers	On 19 September 2020 WIRED reported that a patient had died in Germany when the hospital she was travelling to was crippled by ransomware and she had to be transferred to a hospital further away for treatment. German prosecutors subsequently opened a negligent homicide investigation into the incident. Later in September, the IT network of one of the largest healthcare providers in	Written	

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			the United States, Universal Health Services, was crippled by ransomware forcing hundreds of sites to resort to pen and paper. Does the Australian Cyber Security Centre have threat intelligence that Australian healthcare providers are being targeted by ransomware crews?		
10	Kimberley Kitching	Foreign ransomware defence	On 7 April 2020, Minister Reynolds <u>stated</u> that: <i>“We are hitting back through the Australian Signals Directorate, who have already successfully disrupted activities from foreign criminals by disabling their infrastructure and blocking their access to stolen information.”</i> ¶What is the Australian government’s policy for responding to ransomware attacks that pose a threat to life as these attacks on healthcare facilities undoubtedly do? ¶Without going into operational capabilities, is it open to ASD pursue a ‘defend forward’ model like that outlined by the Minister, operating on foreign ransomware crews’ networks to disrupt attacks that pose a foreseeable threat to Australian lives?¶Is there a formal policy framework governing these kinds of ‘defend forward’ operations?¶What is the threshold for action for a defend forward operation – threat to life, threat to critical infrastructure?¶How does ASD assess the deterrence potential of a defend forward model? Is disruption alone enough to be effective? Or are other forms of covert action necessary?	Written	
11	Kimberley Kitching	Communication with ACSC partners	On Friday 19 June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to <u>tell</u> the nation that a <i>“sophisticated state-based cyber actor”</i> was: <i>“targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.”</i> The Prime Minister stated that the purpose of this press conference was to <i>“raise awareness”</i> so that <i>“organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks”</i> . Why were Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) partners not informed of this threat in advance of the Prime Minister’s press conference?	Written	
12	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC partners’ access to threat intelligence	The government encourages eligible organisations to sign a confidentiality deed to become an ACSC partner in order to access threat intelligence <i>“consisting of context-rich, actionable and timely information in a variety of formats, including alerts and advisories, and automated indicator sharing.”</i> Did the ACSC provide this specific threat intelligence to ACSC partners before the Prime Minister’s 19 June 2020 press conference?	Written	
13	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC advisory on Australian targets	How long after the Prime Minister’s 19 June 2020 press conference did the ACSC issue its advisory <i>“Copy-Paste Compromises - tactics, techniques and procedures used to target multiple Australian networks”</i> ?	Written	
14	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC Copy-Paste Compromise	How long was the ACSC aware of the Copy-Paste Compromise threat intelligence before the Prime Minister’s 19 June 2020 press conference was held?	Written	
15	Kimberley Kitching	Best practice intelligence sharing	Nine News began <u>reporting</u> that there had been a <i>“major cyber attack”</i> against the Australian government and <i>“the private sector right across Australia”</i> at 8:45am on 19 June. The Prime Minister’s press conference about this campaign began at 8:55am. ¶Why was Nine News told	Written	

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			about this cyber incident before ACSC Partners? ¶ Has ACSC received any complaints from industry partners about the way this press conference was managed? ¶ Does the ACSC believe this process represented best practice threat intelligence sharing? ¶ Does the Prime Minister’s office regularly play a role in coordinating the public release of threat intelligence on cyber security matters?		
16	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC ZeroLogon alert	The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) issued an emergency directive to Federal Civilian Executive Branch agencies to patch the ZeroLogon vulnerability by midnight on 21 September 2020. ACSC didn’t release a public alert on ZeroLogon until 22 September, 4 days after CISA did and the day after it was compulsory for US agencies to have patched the vulnerability. ¶ a) Why was the ACSC’s alert only issued 4 days after it was distributed in the United States? b) Was an alert distributed within the Australian government regarding ZeroLogon and the need to mitigate against it, the prior to the public alert? ¶ c) If yes; When was this non-public alert distributed?	Written	
17	Kimberley Kitching	Citrix Gateway vulnerability alert	A Citrix Gateway vulnerability was disclosed on 17 December 2019. ITNews reported on this vulnerability and identified Australia as being in “the top five countries by number of companies that are potentially vulnerable to an attack” on 24 December 2019. The US NIST National Vulnerability Database published the Citrix Gateway vulnerability on 27 December 2019. Despite this, the ACSC only published their alert – classified as critical – on 13 January 2020. ¶ a) Why was this critical alert issued nearly a month after the vulnerability was disclosed? ¶ b) What are the potential consequences of these delays in alert notification for Australian businesses? ¶ c) Is the ACSC satisfied with timeliness of its alerts relative to alerts issued by its peers in the US and UK?	Written	
18	Kitching Kimberley	Cyber threat-sharing platform	On 30 June 2020 Scott Morrison announced \$35 million in funding to deliver “a new cyber threat-sharing platform” for industry and government to share intelligence about malicious cyber activity as part of the 2020 Cyber Security Strategy. On 21 April 2016 – 1,531 days earlier – on the day of the release of the 2016 Cyber Security Strategy, the Government announced that it would: “establish a layered approach for sharing real time public-private cyber threat information through... an online cyber threat sharing portal.” ¶ The strategy further provided that this threat sharing portal would enable “A broad range of organisations (to) share information on a secure, online cyber threat sharing portal, including the results of analysis by the Joint Cyber Threat Centres.” Was this real time government-industry threat intel sharing platform, as announced by the government in the 2016 Cyber Security Strategy, ever delivered?	Written	
19	Kimberley Kitching	Attorney-General Department’s progress on cyber threat-sharing platform	In its response to Question on Notice 223 from 2019-20 supplementary budget estimates about the government’s commitment to real time threat intel sharing, ASD indicated that the Attorney-General’s Department had received New Policy Proposal funding to deliver “a cyber threat intelligence management and sharing capability” commencing 1 July 2016, which was then rolled over to ASD in machinery of government changes on 1 July 2018. Had the real time threat intel sharing platform announced by the government been delivered over those two years?	Written	

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20	Kimberley Kitching	Cyber threat intelligence management and sharing capability	ASD further indicated in response to Question on Notice 223 that it had “undertaken an approach to market to select a commercial-off-the-shelf cyber-threat intelligence management and sharing capability” due be delivered by 30 June 2020. ¶Was that ‘cyber threat intelligence management and sharing capability’ delivered by 30 June 2020?	Written	
21	Kimberley Kitching	Cyber Security Strategy supersession	30 June 2020 – the day Senate Estimates was told that ASD would be delivering on the cyber threat intelligence sharing platform from the 2016 Cyber Security Strategy, was the day the Prime Minister announced a new real time threat intelligence sharing platform as part of the 2020 Cyber Security Strategy. ¶Did the Prime Minister’s announcing supersede delivery of the earlier announcement?	Written	
22	Kimberley Kitching	2020 threat intel sharing platform operability	When does ASD anticipate that the new, 2020 threat intel sharing platform re-announced by the Prime Minister will be operational?	Written	
23	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC 2020-21 funding	The report of the Industry Advisory Panel for the 2020 Cyber Security Strategy recommended that the Government: “Fund the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) to continue its rolling program of cyber security improvements (but not audits) for other Australian Government agencies. Given the ACSC essentially provides a second line of defence role in risk management terminology, audit should be undertaken by a separate agency.” ¶Did ACSC receive this funding in the 2020-21 budget?	Written	
24	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC Cyber Uplift Program	a) Has ACSC been funded to continue its Cyber Uplift Program in 2020-21?¶ b) How does the funding provided for the ACSC’s Cyber Uplift Program in 2020-21 compare to the funding allocated for this program in 2019-20?¶ c) How many Commonwealth entities does the ACSC expect to work with in its Cyber Uplift Program in 2020-21?¶ d) How does this compare with the number of entities that it worked with in 2019-20?	Written	
25	Kimberley Kitching	Industry Advisory Panel report	The Industry Advisory Panel report stated that: “The Panel would also welcome the ongoing transparency of government in publishing audits of cyber resilience practices across departments and stakeholder entities, with the findings of these reports highlighting opportunities for improvements and learning across all sectors.” Does the ACSC agree with the Industry Advisory Panel that cyber resilience audits undertaken by the Australian National Audit Office are a valuable part of the Commonwealth’s cyber security posture, “highlighting opportunities for improvements and learning” throughout the Commonwealth?	Written	
26	Kimberley Kitching	Decrease in ANAO audits impact on cyber security	Is the ACSC concerned that the Government’s \$14 million cut to the operating budget of the ANAO, in the context of a warning from the Auditor-General that it will be forced to cut back on the number of audits it undertakes even on its current level of funding, may weaken the Commonwealth’s cyber security posture by degrading this important transparency and accountability function?	Written	

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27	Kimberley Kitching	ASD's role in protecting Australia's democratic institutions against foreign controlled apps	Media reports have indicated that both Home Affairs and the Department of Defence have undertaken risk assessments on the use of the WeChat and TikTok apps on the mobile devices of departmental staff. The ABC has reported that the Home Affairs assessment found that a foreign nation state obtaining "access to data and personal information" of department staff through the app was "possible" and of "major" consequence. As a result, TikTok and WeChat are not white-listed for use on Australian Defence Department or Home Affairs devices. What is ASD's role in protecting Australia's democratic institutions from the threat of espionage or foreign interference via foreign controlled apps or internet services?	Written	
28	Kimberley Kitching	TikTok and WeChat risk assessment	The Prime Minister declared in July that the government is looking "very closely" at the potential security risks associated with TikTok. The ABC has reported that 'intelligence agencies' have been directed to undertake this close look for the Prime Minister. Has ASD been involved in preparing risk assessments for the use of TikTok and WeChat in Australia?	Written	
29	Kimberley Kitching	TikTok and WeChat high target risk assessment	Have any risk assessments been undertaken for the use of TikTok or Wechat for users that might face an increased risk of being targeted for espionage or foreign interference – such as diaspora communities, think tanks, NGOs or Parliamentarians?	Written	
30	Kimberley Kitching	ASD advice to PM on foreign controlled apps	When the Prime Minister warned that data on TikTok could potentially be accessed at a "sovereign state level" and that: "People need to understand where the extension cord goes back to. People should know that the line connects right back to China and they should exercise their own judgment about whether they should participate in those things or not." a) Did this statement reflect ASD advice? b) Does ASD agree with the Prime Minister's assessment? c) Does ASD believe that increasing transparency about the way these apps work and public awareness of the risks associated with them is a useful mitigation against these risks?	Written	
31	Kimberley Kitching	Inconsistency in advice to Parliamentarians on TikTok and WeChat	The position within government regarding security advice on TikTok and Wechat is fairly inconsistent at present. These Apps are being banned at Home Affairs and the Department of Defence and the Prime Minister has warned that they "connect right back to China". But Parliamentarians have received no formal advice that these apps may pose a security risk and should not be used. ¶a) Does this inconsistency reveal a gap in the way the Commonwealth protects our democratic institutions from the risk of espionage and foreign interference from apps like this? b) Has ASD been asked to provide advice on the risk of espionage and foreign interference from apps like these, faced by Members of Parliament?	Written	
32	Kimberley Kitching	Lack of consistency in Five Eyes approach to TikTok	In July of this year, the United States Government banned the use of TikTok on government issued devices in the face of these security risks. This ban explicitly includes the mobile devices of Members of Congress and their staff. How should the Australian public reconcile the different approaches to this issue from our Five Eyes security partner and the Australian government?	Written	
33	Kimberley Kitching	Vulnerability disclosure policies	The second principle of the Government's Code of Practice on Securing the Internet of Things for Consumers is that developers "Implement a vulnerability disclosure policy." ¶The Code says that	Written	

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			this should provide “a public point of contact as part of a vulnerability disclosure policy in order for security researchers and others to report issues” and that “Disclosed vulnerabilities should be acted on in a timely manner.” Why are vulnerability disclosure policies important for improving security for consumers?		
34	Kimberley Kitching	Security benefits of operating bug bounties	The Government’s Code of Practice on Securing the Internet of Things for Consumers states that: “Implementing a bug bounty program encourages and rewards the cyber security community for identifying and reporting vulnerabilities, thereby facilitating the responsible and coordinated disclosure and remediation of vulnerabilities.” What are the security benefits of operating bug bounties?	Written	
35	Kimberley Kitching	Commonwealth adherence to ASD IT advice	The security benefits of bug bounties are highlighted in the ACSC’s IoT Code of Practice: Guidance for Manufacturers that provide examples of good implementation of this principle including that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¶• A clear and detailed vulnerability disclosure policy is readily available on the manufacturer’s website advising that lawyers won’t be used to silence or prosecute people who report vulnerabilities in good faith. ¶• A point of contact specifically for reporting vulnerabilities is clearly identified. ¶• Vulnerabilities that are reported are acknowledged and responded to by the manufacturer. ¶• The manufacturer has an appropriately timely deadline for development and distribution of updates once vulnerabilities are identified. ¶• The manufacturer has a bug bounty program to encourage users to report vulnerabilities. This principle is so important that this guidance note states that “the Australian Government recommends industry prioritise ... vulnerability disclosure (as it)... will bring the largest security benefits in the short term.” Why then, does the Commonwealth itself not follow this best practice security advice in the IT services it offers to Australian citizens? ¶For example, the CovidSAFE app. No point of contact identified for reporting. Very patchy and long delayed acknowledgement and responses to disclosed vulnerabilities. Why doesn’t the Government follow its own IT security advice? 	Written	
36	Kimberley Kitching	Bug bounty program	Has the Federal Government has ever run a bug bounty program?	Written	
37	Kimberley Kitching	ASD advice to Commonwealth IT services	Has ASD provided advice within government recommending the adoption of vulnerability disclosure policies and bug bounties for Commonwealth IT services?	Written	
38	Kimberley Kitching	Establishment of a vulnerability disclosure platform	Since August 2019, the United Kingdom’s National Cyber Security Centre has operated a vulnerability disclosure platform of last resort for UK government entities on the HackerOne platform. Why hasn’t ASD implemented a similar vulnerability disclosure of last resort platform to supplement the cyber security posture of Australian Government entities?	Written	
39	Kimberley Kitching	NCSC assessment of the value of disclosure toolkit	The UK National Cyber Security Centre has published a vulnerability disclosure toolkit sharing best practices for how organisations should engage with security researchers. It says: “Security vulnerabilities are discovered all the time and people want to be able to report them directly to	Written	

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			the organisation responsible. These reports can provide you with valuable information that you can use to improve the security of your systems. It really is in your best interest to encourage vulnerability disclosure.” ¶ Does ASD agree with the NCSC’s assessment of the value of vulnerability disclosure policies?		
40	Kimberley Kitching	Failure to implement bug bounty programs	Since 2016, more than 10,000 vulnerabilities have been discovered as security researchers were invited to US government bug bounties including: Hack the Pentagon, Hack the Army, Hack the Air Force, Hack the Marine Corps and Hack the Defence Travel System. Why has the Australian government not implemented similar bug bounty programs to supplement the cyber security posture of Commonwealth entities?	Written	
41	Kimberley Kitching	Commonwealth IT services protection	Why does the Government believe it’s more important for an internet connected fridge to be protected by a vulnerability disclosure process and bug bounties than the CovidSafe App? Or MyGov? Or any other Commonwealth IT service?	Written	
42	Kimberley Kitching	Australian telecommunications companies and the deployment of RPKI	Research by the Internet Society has recently highlighted that Optus and TPG are yet to deploy Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI). RPKI plays a key role in securing the Internet’s routing system and the failure to deploy the framework significantly increases the risk of route hijacking. Given the recent prevalence of Border Gateway Protocol Hijacking, what is ASD’s advice to Australian telecommunications companies about the deployment of RPKI?	Written	
43	Kimberley Kitching	Cyber Security Centre Small Business Survey	The Australian Cyber Security Centre commissioned its Small Business Survey on 17 June 2019. Submissions closed in September 2019. Why was they survey not publicly released until nine months later, on 1 July 2020?	Written	
44	Kimberley Kitching	ACSC ‘public announcement’ of Small Business Survey findings	When publicly releasing the Small Business Survey, the ACSC stated that it had in fact already “publicly announc(ed) the preliminary findings and results (of the survey) in October 2019 as part of the Australian Cyber Conference”. ¶(a) Does the ACSC consider a Chatham House session closed to the media to be a ‘public announcement’? ¶ b) How many people were in attendance at the Australian Cyber Conference Session where the preliminary findings of the Survey were ‘publicly announced’? ¶ c) Was the ACSC surprised that its ‘public announcement’ of the preliminary findings of the Small Business survey at the Australian Cyber Conference did not attract any media attention? ¶(d) Was the ACSC surprised that its ‘public announcement’ of the preliminary findings of the Small Business survey at the Australian Cyber Conference did not attract a single tweet from any of those present at the session?	Written	
45	Kimberley Kitching	SME cyber security policies	Is the ACSC Small Business Survey the only research input into the development of the government’s SME cyber security policies?	Written	
46	Kimberley Kitching	Government commissioned SME cyber security research	What other research has the government commissioned on Australian SME cyber security practices?	Written	

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47	Kimberley Kitching	Australian SMEs inadequate understanding of cyber threats	In light of the survey's findings that Australian SMEs do not have an adequate understanding of the threats and vulnerabilities that leave them exposed to cyber security risk, what actions is the government undertaking to address this issue?	Written	
48	Kimberley Kitching	Survey impact on ACSCs SME technical guidance material	The ACSC has indicated that: "The data from the Survey informed the development of the ACSC's technical guidance materials tailored to meet the needs and capabilities of Australian small and medium businesses to help to protect them from cyber incidents. Specifically, data helped to tailor the security controls identified in technical guidance, the language used, and the way that content was structured to maximise retention and impact in an effort to protect Australian SMBs." Can ACSC give examples of how the survey data shaped the language used in the ACSCs SME technical guidance material?	Written	
49	Kimberley Kitching	Additional ACSC Small Business Surveys	Will the Government run further ACSC Small Business Surveys in coming years to benchmark its progress in lifting SME awareness of cyber security risks and changing SME behaviour in the face of these risks?	Written	
50	Kimberley Kitching	Qualitative cyber threat understanding research with SMEs	Has the government undertaken qualitative research with small business owners to better understand how to change small business owners' behaviour with respect to cyber security? If so: a) What kind of qualitative research? b) What were the findings of this research? c) Provide the Committee with any reports setting out the results of this research.	Written	
51	Kimberley Kitching	Effectiveness of technical guidance materials	The Government has released a series of guides and technical guidance materials in response to the findings of the Small Business Survey. Has the effectiveness of any of these materials been qualitatively tested with Australian small business owners? If so: a) What kind of qualitative research tested the effectiveness of the materials? b) What were the findings of this research? c) Provide the Committee with any reports setting out the results of this research.	Written	
52	Kimberley Kitching	Target audience for technical guidance materials	What is the target audience for the ACSC's technical guidance materials for Small-Medium Enterprises?	Written	
53	Kimberley Kitching	Best medium to deliver cyber security information	Did anything in the ACSC Small Business Survey suggest that technical guidance material on the ACSC website was the best medium to deliver cyber security information to Australian SMEs in order to maximise the breadth of SME awareness of cyber risks and SME behaviour change?	Written	
54	Kimberley Kitching	Promotion of cyber security materials	What channels is the ACSC using to promote its SME cyber security materials?	Written	
55	Kimberley Kitching	Downloads of ACSC's Small Business Cyber Security	How many times has the ACSC's Small Business Cyber Security Guide been downloaded since its launch in October 2019?	Written	

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56	Kimberley Kitching	Downloads of ACSC's Step-by-Step Guides	How many times have each of the ACSC's Step-by-Step Guides been downloaded?	Written	
57	Kimberley Kitching	Downloads of ACSC's Quick Wins documents	How many times have each of the ACSC's Quick Wins documents been downloaded?	Written	
58	Kimberley Kitching	ASD advice to ATO around cyber vulnerabilities	In September 2020, security researchers Ben Frengley and Vanessa Teague demonstrated how the Australian Tax Office's default login option for tax agents is vulnerable to a code replay attack that could enable an attacker to login to other accounts held by the myGovID user. These researchers indicated that they informed ASD of the threat on 19 August 2020 and that ASD communicated it to the ATO. What advice did ASD provide the ATO about this threat at that time.	Written	
59	Kimberley Kitching	myGovID vulnerability concerns	The ATO has said that the potential to use a code replay attack against the ATO's default log in option is not a "security vulnerability of the myGovID solution or application" because it is a generic attack that can be used against other authentication systems. Is ASD concerned that myGovID is vulnerable to code replay style attacks that redirect users to malicious phishing websites that request authentication credentials?	Written	
60	Kimberley Kitching	Alerting myGovID users where authentication requests originate	Would alerting myGovID users which website is requesting authentication be a useful mitigation against code replay style attacks that redirect users to malicious phishing websites that request authentication credentials?	Written	
61	Kimberley Kitching	Commonwealth Departments proactive domain protection	Cyber Security firm, Proofpoint has undertaken technical analysis of the email domains of 14 Commonwealth Departments and found that: "Only the Department of Finance and the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment are fully implemented and proactively blocking domain spoofing emails from their domains." Proofpoint has stated that: "This leaves 12 departments with no proactive protection against cybercriminals impersonating their official domain to send phishing emails." a) Is this correct? b) Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) represent the most	Written	

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			effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails? ¶(c) Does the Australian Government Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”? ¶(d) What actions is the ACSC taking to promote the more widespread implementation of DMARC on Commonwealth entity email domains?		
62	Kimberley Kitching	Low levels of DMARC implementation	The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that: “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.” Is the ACSC concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?	Written	
63	Kimberley Kitching	State-based cyber actor targeting Australia	On Friday 19th June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to tell the nation that a “sophisticated state-based cyber actor” was “targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.” He further indicated that the purpose of this press conference was to “raise awareness of these specific risks and targeted activities and tell you how you can take action to protect yourself... It is vital that Australian organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks.” ¶• What steps did the Australian Signals Directorate take “to enhance the resilience of their networks” after the Prime Minister’s warning? ¶• The Prime Minister’s media release about this state sponsored campaign encouraged organisations to “take expert advice, and implement technical defences to thwart this malicious cyber activity.” Were any additional technical defences implemented within the Australian Signals Directorate to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister? ¶• Were any additional controls or mitigations implemented within the Australian Signals Directorate to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister? ¶• Was any new staff training initiated to enhance resilience against any phishing attacks targeting staff that may accompany this state sponsored campaign? If so, please provide details to the committee. ¶• Were any internal communications prepared for staff about the threat of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference and what staff could do to maximise the cyber resilience of the Australian Signals Directorate’s networks? If so, please provide them to the committee. ¶• Was any additional funding allocated to support additional technical defences, controls, mitigations or training within the Australian Signals Directorate in response to the Prime Minister’s press conference? ¶• Was the Minister briefed on the cyber resilience of the Australian Signals Directorate’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference? ¶•	Written	

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			Was the Minister briefed on any additional steps to enhance the resilience of the Australian Signals Directorate's networks needed in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?		
64	Kimberley Kitching	ASD compliancy with 'Top Four' mitigations	Is the Australian Signals Directorate compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate's 'Top Four' mitigations as mandated under the Protective Security Policy Framework?	Written	
65	Kimberley Kitching	ASD compliancy with 'Essential Eight' mitigations	Is the Australian Signals Directorate compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate's 'Essential Eight' mitigations as recommended under the Protective Security Policy Framework?	Written	
66	Kimberley Kitching	ASD spend on network cyber security FY 19/20	What was the Australian Signals Directorate's total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2019-2020 financial year?	Written	
67	Kimberley Kitching	Cyber security spend proportionally to total IT spend	What is the cyber security spend as a proportion of the Australian Signals Directorate's total IT spend?	Written	
68	Kimberley Kitching	ASD forecast spend on network cyber security FY 20/21	What is the Australian Signals Directorate's forecast total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2020-2021 financial year?	Written	
69	Kimberley Kitching	ASD spend on cyber security proportional to threat	Has the Australian Signals Directorate's total spend on cyber security increased proportionately to the increased threat identified in the Prime Minister's press conference?	Written	
70	Kimberley Kitching	Allocation to ASD of \$1.35 billion cyber security investment	On Tuesday 30th June 2020, the Government announced a \$1.35 billion 10-year investment in cyber security. Was any of this funding allocated to the Australian Signals Directorate in order to take steps to enhance the cyber resilience of its own networks in the face of the specific threats identified by the Prime Minister in his press conference on 19 June 2020?	Written	
71	Kimberley Kitching	ASD implementation of DMARC on email domains	Has the Australian Signals Directorate fully implemented Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) on its email domains?	Written	
72	Kimberley Kitching	DMARC most effective against threat of phishing emails	Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) provide the most effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails?	Written	
73	Kimberley Kitching	ASD working with ACSC to progress implementation of DMARC	Has the Australian Signals Directorate worked with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to progress its implementation of DMARC?	Written	

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74	Kimberley Kitching	ASD receipt of appropriation for the implementation of DMARC	Has the Australian Signals Directorate received an appropriation for the implementation of DMARC?	Written	
75	Kimberley Kitching	Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways	Does the Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”?	Written	
76	Kimberley Kitching	Concern surrounding low levels of DMARC implementation in Commonwealth entities	The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.” Is the Australian Signals Directorate concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?	Written	
77	Kimberley Kitching	APS ASD staff cyber security training	Have APS staff in the Australian Signals Directorate received cyber security training? How many APS staff in the Australian Signals Directorate have attended in person cyber security training sessions? Who administers and conducts this training?	Written	
78	Kimberley Kitching	ASD target for in-person cyber security training	Does the Australian Signals Directorate have a target for the proportion of active users of the Australian Signals Directorate’s Network that have completed in-person cyber security training sessions?	Written	
79	Kimberley Kitching	Consideration to mandatory cyber security training	Has consideration been given to making cyber security training mandatory for users of the Australian Signals Directorate’s Network? If so, what was the outcome of those considerations?	Written	
80	Kimberley Kitching	Forms of cyber security training provided by ASD	What other forms of cyber security training does the Australian Signals Directorate provide?	Written	
81	Katy Gallagher	Staffing figures	1. Please provide the following figures: ¶a. Expenditure on all contractors for 2019-20 ¶b. Expenditure on all contracts with labour hire firms for 2019-20 c. Headcount of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as at 30 June 2020 ¶i. In total ¶ii. As a percentage of total staff headcount ¶d. As a percentage mark-up on the cost of the contractor, the maximum and minimum fees paid to labour hire firms in 2018-20	Written	
82	Kay Gallagher	Cost benefit analysis contractors to permanent employees	Has the agency performed any analysis on whether it costs more to engage staff as contractors compared with hiring staff as employees? If yes, please provide this analysis.	Written	

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83	Kay Gallagher	Labour hire SES	Has the agency engaged any Senior Executive Service or equivalent positions on a contract/labour hire basis? If yes, please provide details.	Written	
84	Katy Gallagher	Contracts for market research	In relation to contracts for market research:¶How much has been spent to date since 1 January 2020?¶How much has been spent since 24 August 2018?¶Please provide a table with all contracts entered into since 1 January 2020 along with the following information:¶i. Total contract value¶ii. Supplier¶iii. If it was approved by the Service Delivery and Coordination Committee	Written	
85	Kimberley Kitching	Executive management	In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020:¶a. The total number of executive management positions¶b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.¶c. The change in the number of executive manager positions.¶d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.	Written	
86	Kimberley Kitching	Ministerial functions	a. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:¶List of functions. ¶List of all attendees. ¶Function venue.¶Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).¶Details of any food served.¶Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.¶Any available photographs of the function.¶Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	
87	Kimberley Kitching	Departmental functions	a. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:¶List of functions.¶List of all attendees.¶Function venue.¶Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).¶Details of any food served.¶Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. ¶Any available photographs of the function.¶Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	
88	Kimberley Kitching	Executive office upgrades	Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written	
89	Kimberley Kitching	Customised and special-order furniture and office supplies	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department/agency advise the quantum spent on customised and special-ordered furniture and office supplies (excluding items such as ergonomic desks and	Written	

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			chairs and items required for work, health and safety purposes). Please provide a full breakdown, descriptions and cost?		
90	Kimberley Kitching	Facilities upgrades	1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment. ¶2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). ¶3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.	Written	
91	Kimberley Kitching	Staff travel	What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?	Written	
92	Kimberley Kitching	Legal costs	What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?	Written	
93	Kimberley Kitching	Secretarial travel	a. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 be provided including: ¶Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel. ¶Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. ¶Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. ¶Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. ¶Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.	Written	
94	Kimberley Kitching	Departmental staff allowances	1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided?	Written	
95	Kimberley Kitching	Market research	1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies. ¶2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of: ¶Subject matter ¶Company ¶Costs for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 ¶Contract date period ¶3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.	Written	

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96	Kimberley Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?¶ 2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide:¶a. When approval was first sought?¶b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process?¶c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline?¶ 3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided?	Written	
97	Kimberley Kitching	Promotional merchandise	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?¶2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided.¶3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided?	Written	
98	Kimberley Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel	a. 1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 please be provided including: ¶Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.¶Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.¶Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.¶Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.¶Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.	Written	
99	Kimberley Kitching	Social media influencers	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.¶2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.¶3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts	Written	

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			please be provided. ¶4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.		
100	Kimberley Kitching	Commissioned Reports and Reviews	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including: ¶a. Date commissioned. ¶b. Date report handed to Government. ¶c. Date of public release. ¶d. Terms of Reference. ¶e. Committee members and/or Reviewers. ¶2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost. ¶3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel. ¶4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel. ¶5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review. ¶6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level. 7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.	Written	
101	Kimberley Kitching	Board Appointments	1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. 2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. ¶3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date. ¶4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid. ¶5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors. ¶6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.	Written	
102	Kimberley Kitching	Stationery	1. How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	Written	
103	Kimberley Kitching	Departmental staff in Minister's office	1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including: ¶Duration of secondment. ¶APS level ¶2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level?	Written	
104	Kimberley Kitching	CDDA Payments	a. 1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020? ¶2. How many claims were: ¶Accepted. ¶Rejected. ¶Under consideration. ¶3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide: ¶Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations ¶The date payment was made ¶The decision maker.	Written	
105	Kimberley Kitching	Recruitment	1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020? ¶Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided?	Written	
106	Kimberley Kitching	Staffing	1. How many full-time equivalent staff were engaged at each of 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and at 10 November 2020. ¶How many of these positions are (a) ongoing and (b) non-	Written	

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			ongoing. ¶How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. How many were: ¶voluntary ¶involuntary. ¶How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies. ¶What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff. ¶How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. ¶How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020		
107	Kimberley Kitching	Comcare	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status. ¶Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	Written	
108	Kimberley Kitching	Fair Work Commission	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency?	Written	
109	Kimberley Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency?	Written	
110	Kimberley Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.	Written	
111	Kimberley Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	Written	
112	Kimberley Kitching	Media monitoring services	a. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. ¶Which agency or agencies provided these services. ¶Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided ¶What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the FY 2020-21. ¶Which agency or agencies provided these services. ¶Can an itemised list of Austender Contract	Written	

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			Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided ¶¶ What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.		
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