

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: Wikileaks taskforce

Senator: Senator Ludlam

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Question:

Senator LUDLAM: When was the last time that it was convened or that there was a meeting, physical or otherwise? Do you want to take that on notice, because I am aware that time is a bit short. Please provide us with that and whether there have been any changes to the membership. Please table a list if there have been any material changes to the membership since we last spoke. I would not mind a summary of its activities. I think the last time I raised this with you was in May last year.

Dr McCarthy: Certainly. My colleague Ms Noble advises me that the last meeting was on 13 December.

Senator LUDLAM: What can you tell us about that meeting and the reason for that meeting?

Dr McCarthy: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

1. The taskforce has not reformed physically, virtually or otherwise since 13 December 2010.
2. There has been no change to the composition of the taskforce.
3. The taskforce considered how best to manage the impact of Wikileaks' release of United States State Department cables on Australia's national interests, with particular reference to national security, diplomatic relations and the safety of individuals.