

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

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:** Cyber Security Centre

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 20

**Type of Question:** FPA, P100

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 April 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator RYAN: When was the decision taken to establish this particular centre in the way that you have described it in such detail?

Dr McCarthy: I cannot remember exactly when government took the decision to establish the centre. I can take that on notice.

Senator RYAN: The reason I ask is because the leaked white paper dated 11 December 2012 made no mention of the new centre. In fact, it noted the existing Cyber Security Operations Centre as having developed a comprehensive understanding of the cyber threat environment and that is able to coordinate responses to malicious cyber events that target government networks. I think the date when the government took the decision to establish this centre is important in the way that you have outlined. I would appreciate it if you could take that on notice. Did PM&C—and I assume that this would mean you, Dr McCarthy—consult Defence officials as part of the process you outlined on the need for the centre?

**Answer:**

The decision to establish the Australian Cyber Security Centre was made by the Australian Government in April 2012. This followed extensive consultation across industry and government, including with Defence officials.