

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Independent National Security Legislation Monitor
Outcome/Program: -
Topic: Time taken to fill positions

Senator: Ludlam

Question reference number: 118

Type of question: Hansard, p 54, 24 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDLAM:...I will put my first question to the minister. The parliament passed enabling legislation for this office in March or April 2010. Can you tell us what was going on between March and December that it took that period of time before offers were being made to potential applicants?

Answer:

Between March 2010 and December 2010, the Australian Government finalised a short-list of candidates and the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, made a decision in regard to the appointee. This process was conducted thoroughly to ensure that the Government considered appropriately qualified and available candidates. The Top Secret security clearance process for the appointee subsequently commenced. The caretaker period of government over July-August 2010 precluded selection activity during that time.