

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1
Topic: Independent review of the intelligence community

Senator: Ludlam

Question reference number: 124

Type of question: 'Hansard' with F&PA, p61, 24 May

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDLAM: Right before Christmas last year, I think it was on 23 December, the government rather quietly announced the terms of reference for an independent review of the intelligence community, the same agencies that you oversee. I do not believe your officers are mentioned specifically in the terms of reference, but can you tell us whether you are formally or informally linked to that undertaking?

Dr Thom: I have met with the committee and had discussions, but I am not covered in terms of the scope of their terms of reference.

Senator LUDLAM: I understood their review was not of your office; it is more that you are in a wonderful position to contribute. Does the review panel have access to all material, including intelligence information, that is collected and held by your office?

Dr Thom: That question has not been addressed.

Senator LUDLAM: I am addressing it now.

Dr Thom: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: If the answer to that comes back as something other than just a yes or a no that would be appreciated as well—just the extent to which the material that you have will be made available to that review.

Dr Thom: Yes.

Answer:

The Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security will make available material to the committee as appropriate. For example, the review committee has been given a copy of a classified report prepared by the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (OIGIS).

The OIGIS does not produce intelligence information itself but may hold intelligence information received from other agencies. If the committee sought to obtain intelligence information held by OIGIS then it would be appropriate to refer the committee to the originating agency to obtain that information.