

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: Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill

Senator: Ludlam

Question reference number: 125

Type of question: 'Hansard' with F&PA, p63, 24 May

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDLAM: Could you please provide us, within a reasonably short time, with some details about how your views were sought and in what manner you participated? Have you assessed the potential impact of this bill on your capacity to effectively oversee ASIO?

Dr Thom: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

A number of agencies within the Australian Intelligence Community separately briefed the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security on the measures contained in the Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill, prior to the Bill being drafted. The Office expressed the view that it had no concerns about the proposals.

The Office has noted a statement by the Attorney-General's Department in its submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Bill that:

'It is not expected that this amendment will result in significantly more foreign intelligence collection warrants or authorisations being issued under the ASIO Act

In light of this, the Office does not believe that the Bill has the potential to adversely impact ASIO's oversight arrangements.