

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

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: Independent Review of the Intelligence Community**

**Senator: Ludlam**

**Question reference number: 33**

**Type of question: Hansard, p 62, 24 May**

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

**Number of pages: 2**

**Question:**

**Senator LUDLAM: ... Do you think there is an expectation that the panel will be able to make recommendations about the resourcing and mandate of your agency, or are they actually excluded from considering your oversight role?**

**Dr Thom: I think you would have to speak to the panel about that.**

**Senator LUDLAM: I am not sure that we can call them into these committees.**

**Dr Thom: That is true. Prime Minister and Cabinet are the agency responsible for it. I am not sure the extent to which they will be looking at oversight arrangements.**

**Senator LUDLAM: Are you able to make an undertaking to find out for us?**

**Dr Thom: I think it is probably better to address that question to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.**

**Senator Chris Evans: I am prepared to take it on notice on behalf of PM&C.**

**Senator LUDLAM: Thanks, Minister. If the answer to that is no, I would be curious to know the reason why, but I will not pre-empt it.**

**Answer:**

The Terms of Reference for the Independent Review of the Intelligence Community ('the Review') states that the primary focus of the Review is the work of the six Australian Intelligence Community agencies – the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, the Defence Signals Directorate and the Office of National Assessments. However, the Review is not excluded from considering the oversight role of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS).

The accountability framework for the intelligence community, which includes the work of the IGIS, is relevant to a number of the six key issues identified in the Terms of Reference, which includes how well the community is positioned to support Australia's national interests, now and into the future, as well as the development of the community over the last decade, including implementation of intelligence-related reforms.

The Terms of Reference also states that the heads of all relevant departments and agencies will ensure they and their staff co-operate fully with the Review, and provide any requested assistance. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet understands the Review has been in consultation with the IGIS.