

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Independent National Security Legislation Monitor

Outcome/Program: Independent National Security Legislation Monitor

Topic: Independent National Security Legislation Monitor

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: 131

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question 1: The office's budget is not broken down in the budget papers. What budget does the INSLM have this year?

Answer: The office of the INSLM budget for FY 2012-13 is \$544,000.

Question 2: In February, Bret Walker SC said he had one staff for 3 days that does research, but indicated he would like someone for four days and some additional admin assistance.

- a. Have you been provided with additional assistance?
- b. For what tasks?

Answer: Yes. I have been provided with additional assistance. My budget for FY 2012-2013 will allow for my current staff member to work 4 days a week carrying out research. An additional staff member is currently being recruited to work for my office 3 days a week. The additional staff member will carry out administrative and research tasks.

Question 3: I understand that the Prime Minister has power to refer particular cases to you for advice.

- c. Have any such ad hoc referrals been made since last estimates session in February of this year?
- d. If so, on what matters?

Answer: I have received no such referrals.

Question 4: Will you have any role – as advisor or otherwise – in the proposed inquiry into certain aspects of Australia's anti-terrorism laws to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security?

Answer: I have been advised that the Committee have met but have not yet adopted the reference sent by the Attorney-General. It would be a matter for the Committee, if it were to

conduct an inquiry, to determine who it consults with. I would be happy to share views with the Committee if asked.

Question 5: You would be aware that the COAG review of counter-terrorism legislation is now 11 months overdue. In February you confirmed that you had not been approached about this review.

- e. Is that still the case?
- f. Have you had any correspondence, meetings or any request to contribute to the review?
- g. Are you aware of its current status?

Answer: I have not had any official contact concerning the review since February. I have been advised that the review has not yet commenced but have not received any further details on its status. As I have stated previously, I would hope that once the review has commenced there would be the sharing of information and opinions between us. However, I report to the Parliament through the Prime Minister and would not regard it appropriate in my functions to become in any way an adjunct or annex to the COAG review.

Question 6: Noting that the annual report does not make any recommendations; will the next annual report make recommendations?

Answer: Yes, the next annual report will make recommendations.