

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** National Security Committee of Cabinet meetings

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 23

**Type of Question:** F& PA, p 77, 17 October

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Ms Leon: There were 20 meetings of the National Security Committee in the 2010-11 financial year.

Senator RYAN: Only 20? How many have there been since then?

Ms Leon: I do not have that with me. We compile this and publish it on an annual basis. This report has just been tabled. I would have to take it on notice how many meetings there have been since then. But that was 20 meetings up until the end of June 2011.

Senator RYAN: So you can take on notice how many meetings have occurred?

Ms Leon: I will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

We are unable to disclose figures for the number of times the National Security Committee of Cabinet meets in a short period. To do so, when viewed in conjunction with events in the national security environment over those periods, may reveal the subject of National Security Committee of Cabinet deliberations and therefore compromise Cabinet confidentiality.