

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 36

Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 18 February 2008:

Was it the Minister for Home Affairs who was the minister responsible for diverting the *Oceanic Viking* from its scheduled trip of patrolling the Southern Ocean on 8 January 2008 to undertake the whale watch exercise?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The decision to direct the *Oceanic Viking* to undertake surveillance of the Japanese Whaling Fleet was a decision taken by consultation amongst Government Ministers in the normal course of consideration of such matters. The Minister for Home Affairs has responsibility for the Australian Customs Service and Border Protection Command.