

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.3

Question No. 76

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

- a) Please advise the Committee of the current status of the review of the anti-terrorism laws?
- b) Does the so-called Counter-Terrorism White Paper referred to in a media statement from the previous shadow minister, Mr Bevis (possibly on the 5th October 2007) constitute the review of anti-terrorism laws?

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

The Government is considering recommendations made by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Security Legislation Review Committee in their reviews of counter-terrorism laws. The Clarke inquiry into Dr Haneef's case and the inquiry by the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security into actions taken by ASIO in respect of Mr Ul-Haque will also ensure that lessons learnt from counter-terrorism investigations are identified and addressed. The counter-terrorism laws enacted in 2005, including the control order and preventative detention regimes, will be reviewed in 2010 as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments.

The timing and precise scope of the Counter-Terrorism White Paper are under consideration.