

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 119

Senator Nettle asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2006:

PKK Proscription

- a) What was the process that led up the listing of the Kurdish Worker Party (PKK)?
- b) Did discussions with the Turkish Prime Minister affect this process?
- c) Did ASIO have discussions with the Turkish Government or intelligence agencies about the listing?
- d) Has ASIO reviewed the recommendations of the Intelligence Committee's review of the PKK listing?
- e) Has ASIO examined the possibility of listing the military wing of the PKK rather than the whole organisation?

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

- a) An unclassified Statement of Reasons was prepared by ASIO and endorsed by DFAT detailing the case for listing the organisation – that is, unclassified information on the background, objectives, membership and activities of the organisation.
- b) No, the PJCIS report clearly states that the Committee found no evidence that the Turkish Government had influenced the listing of the PKK or affected the timetable.
- c) ASIO does not comment on Government-to-Government discussions or discussions with other intelligence services on matters of national security.
- d) Yes.
- e) Where ASIO has information that only a part of an organisation is directly or indirectly engaged in preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act, only that part of the organisation will be proscribed. This was not the case with the proscription of the PKK.