

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

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Question No. 60

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008

The *National Security Information (Criminal and Civil Proceedings) Act 2004* has been invoked eleven times in total

- a) What was the duration, from the date of charges being laid to the conclusion of the trial, for each of these proceedings?
- b) How does this compare to matters where the Act has not been invoked where issues of national security have been raised?
- c) Provide a breakdown of the legal spend by the Commonwealth for each of the matters where the Act has been invoked.

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

The Department does not intend to comment on the particular circumstances of individual proceedings, most of which are still before the courts.

However, as the Department previously indicated in response to Question No. 80 (8) asked by Senator Stott Despoja at the hearing on 18 February 2008, the Department is not aware of any cases where the application of the Act has caused inordinate delays to proceedings.