

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 89

Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2009:

Can the Committee be provided with a percentage as to the proportion of warrants sought for telephone interceptions from ASIO, when compared to various state and territory police agencies?

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

No. For reasons of operational security ASIO does not report publicly on the number warrants it applies for. This position is consistent with long standing practice of successive governments. It is consistent also with provisions of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* under which, unlike intercepting agencies in the law enforcement community, ASIO has no public reporting obligations.