

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

Output 2.2

Question No. 67

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

With reference to page 119 of the Annual report and regarding the additional funds for expanded capacity in Telecommunications and Surveillance Law, please advise as to whether:

- (a) The additional funds were fully expended.
- (b) The funding was sufficient or in excess of actual need.

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

- (a) The funds received on 1 July 2006 have not yet been fully expended, as the funds were provided to cover the entire 2006/07 financial year.

The funds received on 1 July 2006 have been utilised to create the Telecommunications and Surveillance Law Branch within the Security and Critical Infrastructure Division of the Department.

The Branch comprises 3 sections which have a total of 18 positions. Recruitment for vacant positions within the Branch was finalised in October 2006.

- (b) At this stage in the financial year the Branch is on budget, with the funds allocated sufficient to meet the objects of the Branch.