

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

Question No. 148

Senator Rhiannon provided the following written Question on Notice:

1. During the period that ASIO records are publicly available did ASIO spy on foreign diplomats in Australia?
2. If so what countries were these foreign diplomats from?
3. What are the names of these foreign diplomats?

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

In accordance with the *ASIO Act 1979*, ASIO's functions include:

- to obtain, correlate and evaluate intelligence relevant to security, including acts of foreign interference; and
- to obtain foreign intelligence within Australia.

ASIO has publicly released information on its past investigations, including those relating to foreign interference, in response to requests for access to ASIO records under Section 40 of the *Archives Act 1983*. These files are available through the National Archives of Australia (NAA) and may be accessed via NAA's Record Search website. The material is available to any member of the public for research purposes.