

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

**Question No. 33**

**Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November:**

**CHAIR:** Are you your own boss when it comes to where ASIO lives and the fittings and all that sort of stuff, or is it done through the department. I am just wondering if Mr Wilkins has some information. How does it all work?

**Mr Wilkins:** No, thankfully I have had nothing whatsoever to do with this project!

**Mr Irvine:** I will check to make sure that you get an absolutely correct answer, but the fact is that we have provided specifications to the Department of Finance and the Department of Finance has negotiated—presumably called for tenders and contracts and all the rest of it—and the Department of Finance is managing the construction of this building and is the ultimate owner of the building, not ASIO.

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

In 2006, Government provided its approval to construct a special purpose building on section 49, Parkes, to be tenanted by ASIO. This approval came as a result of extensive analysis by the Department of Finance in consultation with ASIO, a range of industry experts and the National Capital Authority. The industry experts included town planners, services engineers, quantity surveyors, property consultants, and heritage and environmental consultants.

ASIO was responsible for developing the original brief. The Department of Finance undertook a two stage, open tender procurement method to engage the Managing Contractor (MC). Once appointed, the MC became responsible for further developing the original brief in consultation with Commonwealth stakeholders. The MC tendered and selected subcontractors to produce the designs and the specifications in order to meet the original briefed requirements. The development of the specifications has evolved in accordance with agreed cost planning and value management processes.