

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

Question No. 181

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

Were there any recommendations coming out of the Independent Review, released in January 2012, that affect the mandate, practices or resourcing of ASIO? Please detail these and any budget impact.

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

The Review has not identified any issues of major concern or matters that require significant improvement. The Review recognised the crucial role of the Australian Intelligence Community (AIC) in addressing the counter terrorism threat in Australia over the past decade by disrupting major terrorist plots.

The Review also recognised a central challenge for the AIC is to meet both our existing and expanding security challenges in an era of constrained resources.

ASIO is under budget pressure to meet Government's expectations, considering its expanded remit into border integrity and the evolution and growth of national security threats, one of which is cyber espionage.

ASIO has rigorous mechanisms for evaluation and prioritising threats within a tight budgetary environment. The ever-changing security environment also means the laws within which security agencies operate must continue to modernise to reflect the level and nature of emerging threats to our nation.