

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 41

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

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Could you provide a list of sources that NOSIC has used to date? I did just want to make reference to some of the comments that were made when we were last together when you did suggest that it could extend to community noticeboards. So, for example, does that include noticeboards physically located at universities, libraries, community centres? So you may want to take that on notice but I was interested in a list of sources that NOSIC has used to date.

Mr Drennan: We certainly could, but again we would stipulate it is open-source information. It is information which is available to the public in general. It is more about being able to search that and bring it together in a consolidated manner. So whether it is extended to noticeboards or the internet or the newspaper there is nothing which is untoward or secretive in the manner or in the sources from which this information is obtained and provided.

Senator RHIANNON: Thanks, and that is why I would like to ask it on notice as you have identified that it is both in a consolidated form and publicly available as far as we know. So could you take that on notice, please?

Mr Drennan: Certainly.

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

NOSIC has been providing consolidated open source information to the AFP since 2003.

NOSIC services contain only information that is widely and openly available to the public, academia and the private sector and does not include noticeboards physically located at universities, libraries and/or community centres.

All of the information is drawn from publicly available sources, such as the internet, media and public announcements. The AFP does not have a list of the sources that have been used by NOSIC since 2003.