

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

Question No. 74

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

Referring to Outcome 1, Table 2.1 in ASIO of the Attorney-General Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS), in particular, the average staffing level for 2011-12 and 2012-13, which remains at 1760:

- a) Was there projected growth in the organisation before the Government imposed a spending cut on the agency?
- b) Given in the 2010-11 PBS, the average staffing level was expected to grow from 1711 to 1800, why has growth been revised down to 1760 in the 2012-13 PBS?
- c) What impact have these cuts had on the organisation's ability to conduct its activities?

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

- a) The Review of ASIO Resourcing conducted by Mr Allan Taylor AM in 2005 identified 1,860 full-time staff as the endpoint target for ASIO.
- b) In support of the Government's fiscal policy, planned growth in staffing for ASIO has been deferred with a new endpoint of 1,760 full time equivalent staff.
- c) ASIO will continue a risk-managed approach to resource allocation and the prioritisation of our national security responsibilities.