

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media

QoN Number: 01

Subject: TikTok

Asked by: Jenny McAllister

Question:

1. How many reviews or investigations of TikTok have been undertaken by the Department of Home Affairs or by an agency in the Home Affairs' portfolio?

2. In respect of each review or investigation, please provide the following information:

- whether the review or investigation was led by the Department of Home Affairs;
- whether the review or investigation was led by one or more security agencies and, if so, what agencies;
- the purpose of the review or investigation;
- the terms of reference for the review or investigation (i.e. what was the review or investigation looking into);
- whether the review or investigation included a security assessment and, if so, what agency or entity provided that security assessment;
- whether the review or investigation included a technical assessment of the app;
- whether the review or investigation included an analysis of Bytedance's relationship with foreign governments;
- whether the review or investigation included an analysis of what data is collected by TikTok;
- whether the review or investigation included an analysis of how and where the data collected by TikTok is stored;
- a list of the organisations and agencies that were consulted (e.g. TikTok);
- when the review or investigation began;
- when the review or investigation was completed;
- what the review or investigation concluded in respect of TikTok;
- whether the review or investigation specifically included a risk assessment in respect of the use of TikTok by particular users who might face an increased risk of being targeted for espionage or foreign interference (e.g. parliamentarians, employees of think tanks or NGOs);

- whether the review or investigation resulted in any change in government or departmental policy in respect of the use of TikTok on the personal devices of employees; and
- was the review or investigation informed by any advice or findings of any intelligence or other government agency in the United States.

Answer:

1. Consistent with longstanding practice, ASIO does not comment on intelligence matters.
2. The Department of Home Affairs has undertaken one internal short form Security Risk Assessment on the use of TikTok on the Department's issued corporate mobile devices. The following information is provided in respect of the short form Security Risk Assessment:
 - The Security Risk Assessment was led by the Cyber Risk Management area of the Department of Home Affairs;
 - The Security Risk Assessment was not led by or consulted with other agencies, it was completed in the context of the Department's risk tolerances for its own corporate mobile devices;
 - The purpose of the Security Risk Assessment was to examine risks associated with the use of the TikTok application on the Department's issued corporate mobile devices;
 - The Department routinely completes Security Risk Assessment's of suppliers of ICT products and services in the context of the Department's risk tolerance and business operations;
 - A Security Risk Assessment was completed by the Cyber Risk Management area of the Department of Home Affairs;
 - The Security Risk Assessment did not include a technical assessment of the app;
 - The Security Risk Assessment did not include an analysis of ByteDance's relationships with foreign governments;
 - The Security Risk Assessment did include an analysis of what data is collected by TikTok;
 - The Security Risk Assessment included an analysis of how and where the data collected by TikTok is stored;
 - No organisations or agencies were consulted;
 - The Security Risk Assessment began in January 2020;
 - The Security Risk Assessment was completed in January 2020;
 - The Security Risk Assessment concluded that the Department restrict access to TikTok from Department issued corporate mobile devices;
 - The Security Risk Assessment included the consequence of the risks associated with the use of TikTok, particularly the Department's senior executives or staff working in sensitive areas;
 - The Security Risk Assessment was completed in the context of Department issued devices that can access Department information. As employee personal mobile devices are unable to access Department information, they were not assessed. No changes to Departmental policy on the use of

personal devices of employees have resulted from the Security Risk Assessment;

- The Security Risk Assessment was not informed by any advice or findings of any intelligence or other government agency in the United States.