

nsw commission for children & young people

Secretary RECEIVED

Ms Margaret Swieringa Committee Secretary Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Swieringa

I am writing regarding your letter concerning the Review of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Questioning and Detention Powers under Division 3 of Part III of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979 ('the Act').

I understand that these powers have only been used on three occasions so I do not wish to comment in detail.

Given that the Committee is required to review the operation of the Act, and the Act operates differently in relation to questioning young people aged between 16 and 18 years, I suggest that ASIO be required to report on whether any of the people questioned were under the age of 18 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Kate Burns, Legal Officer on (02) 9286 7206 or email <u>kate.burns@kids.nsw.gov.au</u> if you have any gueries.

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Yours sincerely

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Gillian Calvert Commissioner Ø January 2005