

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
[ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011]

[Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio]

Department/Agency: Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1

Topic: Exchange of information with foreign liaisons

Senator: Trood

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. According to the OIGIS Annual Report 2009-2010 “Mr Carnell was generally satisfied that the internal policy guidance which ASIO developed in 2006 provided a sound basis for the passage and receipt of information, however, the inspections which this office carried out in 2008-09 and 2009-10 revealed that there are some deficiencies in record keeping. In some instances there is a lack of documentary evidence that the considerations articulated in the policy are being given effect.
 - a. What were the deficiencies identified in 2008-09 and 2009-10
 - b. Have the deficiencies identified been rectified?
 - c. Is OIGIS continuing to monitor ASIO’s record keeping in relation to the exchange of information with foreign liaisons?
 - d. What measures are in place to ensure this occurs?

Answer:

The responses to these questions are as follows:

- a. The record-keeping deficiencies noted in recent IGIS annual reports related to the proper recording of approvals by senior officers and the documentation of the consideration given to different factors which ASIO’s internal policy requires be taken into account when decisions are made about the disclosure of information to authorised foreign authorities.
- b. ASIO has been working actively to rectify these issues and issued revised internal policy guidance in May 2010, which clarifies the requirement to adequately record

decisions and the factors which have been taken into account before a decision is made.

- c. Yes.
- d. OIGIS staff have and will continue to regularly review relevant ASIO records so that we might be satisfied that decision making and record-keeping practices are proper and appropriate and accord with all internal policy requirements.