

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing October 2015
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency:	Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
Outcome/Program:	Outcome 1
Topic:	Staffing, oversight and overhaul
Senator:	Xenophon
Question reference number:	242
Type of question:	Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer:	4 December 2015
Number of pages:	1
Question:	

How are the Government's strict security laws inhibiting IGIS' role as Chief Watchdog?

Answer:

The IGIS is not inhibited from providing effective oversight of the Australian intelligence agencies by any Australian laws. As noted in the IGIS 2014-15 Annual Report (at page 4), it is not always possible to publish detailed reports about inquiries because to do so could prejudice national security. However, this statement does not indicate the IGIS is inhibited from conducting inspections and inquiries with full access to the records and staff of the agencies.