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: 246 **Type of question:** Written

Date set by the committee for the

return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Are agencies obliged to accept recommendations?

Answer:

No.

Section 24 of the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986* requires agency heads to give the IGIS details of any action the agency head takes or proposes to take as a result of the conclusions and recommendations set out in an IGIS report. If the IGIS forms the view that an agency head does not take, within a reasonable period, action that is adequate and appropriate in the circumstances, the IGIS may discuss the matter with the responsible Minister and prepare a report relating to that matter, with a copy to be given to the Prime Minister.