

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

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

<b>Department/Agency:</b>	Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
<b>Outcome/Program:</b>	Outcome 1
<b>Topic:</b>	Staffing, oversight and overhaul
<b>Senator:</b>	Xenophon
<b>Question reference number:</b>	249
<b>Type of question:</b>	Written
<b>Date set by the committee for the return of answer:</b>	4 December 2015
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<b>Question:</b>	

I note comments in the IGIS 2014-15 annual report which states:

It is difficult for the office to continue to demonstrate rigorous and credible oversight given the strict limitations on public reporting.

I understand the Inspector-General provides a report to the responsible minister at the end of each inquiry and a summary of the report will be included in the next annual report. In addition, the responsible minister may also agree to the public release of information about a particular report at an earlier time.

In the case referred to did IGIS seek permission for the public release of information? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

The quote from the IGIS annual report was made in the context of the two major inquiries conducted during 2014-15.

In relation to the ASIS inquiry, the IGIS took into account all relevant considerations, with a view to the public release of as much information as possible without prejudicing Australia's national security or foreign relations. After considering all the information available, the IGIS formed the view that, on balance, it was not in the interests of national security to publicly release details of this inquiry.

In relation to the ASD inquiry, the report was finalised shortly after the end of the reporting period, and will be further addressed in the next IGIS annual report.