

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM17

Topic: Intelligence Community Review

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 111-112, 24 May

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Senator TROOD-In other words, you are not getting any contributions at all, pretty well! Is this question an item on the agenda for the intelligence review?

Mr Gyngell-So far as I know, that has not been established by the government.

Senator TROOD-You have not seen the terms of reference yet?

Mr Gyngell-No.

Senator TROOD-Minister, can you tell me: is that a matter that is?

Senator Ludwig-I think we are caught by the same issue. When the government goes forward, I think this is a question for-would it be the Attorney-General's?

Mr Gyngell-No, it would be the Prime Minister.

Senator Ludwig-The Prime Minister. When that announcement is made, you will obviously be apprised of the terms of reference at that point.

Senator TROOD-I see. But I can perhaps ask tomorrow whether or not any?

Senator Ludwig-I do not think I am going to advance.

Answer: The Government announced in the 2010-11 Budget the provision of \$3 million over the next two financial years to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to support a planned external review of the intelligence community to be conducted during 2011.

Planning for the 2011 review is at an early stage, but the intention is for an independent, comprehensive and in-depth examination of the work of the intelligence community to ensure its effectiveness in supporting the policy and operational needs of the Government now and into the future.

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The review's Terms of Reference are yet to be developed and consultations will take place among relevant departments and agencies, including with the Office of National Assessments, before a draft is considered by the Government.