

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1  
**Topic:** Complaints received by OIGIS

**Senator:** Trood

**Question reference number:** 121

**Type of question:** 'Hansard' with F&PA, p59 - 60, 24 May

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 8 July

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator TROOD:** Can you please break down the complaints that you received which fall within your jurisdiction, by agency?

**Dr Thom:** There were 13; 11 about ASIO; one about DSD, Defence Signals Directorate; and one about the Office of National Assessments.

**Senator TROOD:** What is the status of those complaints and your investigations of them?

**Dr Thom:** I do not have that information here.

**Senator TROOD:** Would you take that on notice, please

**Dr Thom:** Yes.

**Senator TROOD:** Are any of them resolved at this stage?

**Dr Thom:** I do not have that information here.

**Senator TROOD:** Would you take that on notice, please.

**Answer:**

During 2010-11, the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security handled four complaints about an action of an AIC agency on an administrative basis (excluding immigration related complaints) and a further four complaints using the preliminary inquiry powers in the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986*.

Of the four complaints handled administratively:

- three concerned the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). Two of these complaints are closed, requiring no further action. One complaint remains under active consideration, pending the provision of further information by the complainant.
- one concerned the Defence Signals Directorate. The status of that complaint is closed, requiring no further action

(Note At the hearing on 24 May 2011, Dr Thom referred to thirteen complaints being received, including one complaint about the Office of National Assessments (ONA). At our end-of-financial

year review: one additional complaint about ASIO had been received; nine complaints about ASIO were reassessed as contacts to the Office, rather than complaints; and the complaint about ONA was reassessed as a contact raising issues outside the jurisdiction of the Office.)

The four complaints addressed as preliminary inquiries concerned:

- the conduct of an ASIO investigation
- the conduct of an ASIO interview
- a delay in ASIO providing the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) with the outcome of a security assessment
- the handling of personal information by DSD during a recruitment process.

The status of all four preliminary inquiries is closed, requiring no further action.

During 2010-11, no complaints resulted in a full inquiry being undertaken using the formal powers in Division 3 of the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986*.