

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Question No. 4

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:

- a) Has the agency or department expended any funding for any purpose related to the Australian military deployment in Afghanistan?
- b) If so, please indicate all programs which have expended funding in relation to the Australian military deployment.
- c) For each of these programs:
 - (i) How much funding was budgeted (broken down by financial years)?
 - (ii) How much funding was expended (broken down by financial years)?
 - (iii) What was the purpose of the program?
 - (iv) Is the program finalised (if not, please indicate when the program is due to finalise, and any additional funds allocated to be expended under the program)?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The following information is provided to this question in respect of the Attorney-General's Department and portfolio agencies.

Attorney-General's Department

This Department has provided advice and assistance in relation to the Australian military deployment in Afghanistan and has done so for the whole period of that deployment. The areas of the Department that provide such advice and assistance are principally the Office of International Law and also the Criminal Justice Division (programs 1.4 and 2.1). There has been no specific budgeting as such for matters relating to the deployment in Afghanistan. Employees have provided advice and assistance to the Government and other Departments on matters relating to that deployment and their employment is covered by the general appropriation for employee expenses in relation to each program. As long as the deployment to Afghanistan continues, this Department will continue to provide advice and assistance in relation to that deployment.

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

ASIO provides advice to government on threats to Australian interests wherever they are located. For reasons of national security, it would not be appropriate to provide further details that go to operational issues.