

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

Output 2.1

Question No. 76

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

- a) Does the department advise the minister as to which firearms should be given written permission for importation?
- b) If yes, what criteria does the department use in determining which requests should be allowed?

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

- a) Yes.
- b) The Department assesses application in accordance with the criteria detailed in the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. Based on that assessment, the Department makes a recommendation to the Minister on whether to approve a firearm import application. The requirements vary depending on the type of firearm that is being imported and the purpose for which it is being imported.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Output 2.1

Question No. 77

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

- a) How many requests for firearm importation were refused in 2003-04?
- b) On what grounds were they refused?

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

- a) and b) No requests for firearm importation were refused in 2003-04.

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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Output 2.4

Question No. 78

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Who is on the Australian Government Counter-Terrorism Committee, what are their qualifications and who is responsible for appointing people to the committee?

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

The Australian Government Counter-Terrorism Committee (AGCTC) consists of the following members: Protective Security Coordination Centre (Chair); Attorney-General's Department (including Security and Critical Infrastructure Division and Public Affairs Unit); Australian Security Intelligence Organisation; Australian Federal Police (including Protective Services); Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Office of National Assessments; Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs; Department of Defence (including Australian Defence Force Headquarters; Defence Signals Directorate; Defence Intelligence Organisation and Defence Security Authority); Emergency Management Australia; Department of Transport and Regional Services; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Health and Ageing; Department of Finance and Administration and Parliament House Security.

Representatives are senior officers with specific knowledge of Australia's counter-terrorism operational arrangements. Each member agency is responsible for appointing its AGCTC representative(s).

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

Output 2.1

Question No. 79

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Russia:

- a) Has the Attorney-General's Department ever received any request for any extradition treaty or bilateral extradition treaty from any Russian office, agency, department or embassy?
- b) If so, when and in what form was such a request made?
- c) If so, has the Attorney-General's Department made any response to such a request?

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

- a) Yes.
- b) In November 1995, Russia provided to Australia a draft text of a Russian model legal co-operation treaty. Australia provided a copy of its model extradition treaty to Russia on 7 February 1996 with no commitment to negotiate. On 25 October 2004, the Russian Ambassador, His Excellency Leonid Moiseev, wrote to the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon Chris Ellison, stating that neither he nor his staff ever raised the idea of concluding an extradition treaty between Russia and Australia, nor had he ever received any instructions to this effect.
- c) See above.