

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 37

Senator Bernardi asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator BERNARDI: Are you able to tell me on what date ASIO provided its advice to the Australian government that Huawei should not participate in the National Broadband Network?

Mr Irvine: I am not going to comment on that question in the way that you have phrased it. Advice that we provided to the government on the issue was some considerable time ago, but I am not going to say whether it was 'should' or 'should not'.

Senator BERNARDI: Can you give me the date when ASIO provided the advice to the government about—

Mr Irvine: I will have to take that on notice, and it is probably not a single date.

Senator BERNARDI: Would you be able to advise me—you may want to take this on notice as well—whether this advice was provided after Huawei appointed a local Australian board of directors, which I believe was in June 2011?

Mr Irvine: I will need to check that.

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

ASIO provides confidential security briefings to Government on a range of issues that fall within ASIO's remit. It would not be appropriate to provide any public comment on the nature or timings of these briefings.