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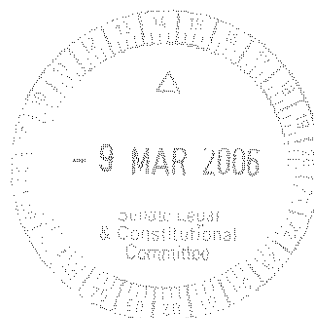


Australian Government

Australian Security  
Intelligence Organisation

Director-General of Security

Mr Jonathan Curtis  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Our ref: eA980127  
9 March 2006

VIA FACSIMILE: 02 6277 5794

Dear Mr Curtis

**Inquiry into the Exposure draft of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Bill 2005**

I refer to your letter dated 16 February 2006 seeking ASIO's comments in relation to an exposure draft of the proposed Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Bill 2005. I note the draft Bill is intended to implement in Australia the revised Forty Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and the Nine Special Recommendations on Counter-Terrorism Financing.

ASIO supports the principle of this Bill and considers it very important that Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing system is strengthened. The proposed Bill should further support ASIO security investigations with the enhanced obligations relating to those entities providing designated services and increased provisions of the Bill in line with Financial Action Task Force Recommendations.

ASIO is still considering the exposure draft and has identified some issues for internal deliberation. These issues will be progressed separately with the Attorney-General's Department as part of that Department's consultation process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in relation to the draft Bill. The action officer for this matter in ASIO's Legal Branch is the Assistant Legal Adviser, who can be contacted on 6234 1232 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Paul O'Sullivan  
Director-General of Security

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