

## QUESTION BRIEF (QB)

TOPIC: s22

Thales Reporting

## ISSUE/S OF THE DAY

- The United Kingdom's Serious Fraud Office has launched a joint investigation with France into suspected bribery and corruption involving Thales.

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***If asked: was Australia aware of the United Kingdom and French investigations into Thales?***

- Australia is not a party to this matter and Defence officials became aware following last week's media release by the United Kingdom.
- Questions should be directed to relevant United Kingdom and French authorities.

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BACKGROUND AND CHRONOLOGY

- On 21 November 2024, the United Kingdom’s Serious Fraud Office announced it has launched a joint investigation with France into suspected bribery and corruption into Thales.

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Media

<u>Date</u>	<u>Outlet</u>	<u>Reporting</u>

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24 November 2024	ABC News	<u><i>French defence firm thales denies wrongdoing as it faces Anglo-French probe over suspected bribery</i></u> reports Thales is subject to a probe into allegations of bribery and corruption concerning a contract in Asia. The article also references allegations of unethical conduct from the recent ANAO audit and the recent announcement of Thales Australia as the preferred tenderer for the 155mm munitions forging contract.
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