

Questions on Notice for the Australian Securities and Investments Commission

Question 1 - How much extra funds was ASIC provided to establish the business names register?

ASIC received an appropriation of \$38.9m for the implementation and ongoing operation of the business name service. Of this amount, \$16.2m is for the delivery of the new service and \$22.7m is for 3 years of operations post delivery.

ASIC also received \$20.2m for the delivery of a new revenue management system which was required to administer the Business Name register.

Question 2 - How many extra staff have been allocated? Are they existing staff pooled from different areas or are they new staff?

ASIC currently has 19 FTE staff allocated to the delivery of this project and this will increase to a peak of over 50 staff in mid 2012.

ASIC's project team comprises existing staff, and some new information technology staff. The roles of existing staff have been back-filled through recruitment of new staff. As our team expands, it will include a combination of existing and new staff.

Question 3 - Do these bills now give ASIC oversight for small businesses and franchises?

The bills do not give ASIC additional oversight of small businesses and franchises.

Question 4 - If not, will this bill create confusion, will there be misconstrued perceptions regarding ASIC's role in the business community? Would ASIC's role in monitoring companies be confused with its role in maintaining a business names registry?

To avoid confusion, ASIC will communicate widely with stakeholders about its new responsibilities for business names, as part of a program communications strategy.

To assist business name owners meet their legal obligations ASIC's online Business Name registration service will include links to the websites of relevant agencies including Franchise Australia, the Australian Business Account, IP Australia and the Australian Domain Name service.

Question 5 - How will these issues be addressed?

ASIC will communicate widely with stakeholders about its new responsibilities for business names, as part of our overall communications strategy.