

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Cybersecurity Compliance - Inquiry into Auditor-General's report 42 (2016-17)
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

June 2017

Department/Agency: ATO
Question: Hansard pg 14
Topic: Committee Frequency

Question:

CHAIR (Senator Smith) : Ms Bryant or the Australian tax office, how often does the audit committee meet and do any of its members have cybersecurity skills interests?

Mr Katf: Let me tackle it first. When you say the audit committee or our security committee, we have two different ones. The audit committee meets, I am pretty sure, on a monthly basis. I am not a member of that. The security committee we have also, at the moment, is meeting on a monthly basis to track a range of very important assessments and reports we have been doing, in terms of increasing our visibility and awareness and improving our processes around all of our cyber threats. That committee is made up of members of the security team and all dimensions of our security—physical security, personnel security and IT security as well as representatives from the business—to provide both the technology and security issues as well as the business perspectives of it.

CHAIR: And how does that report into the audit committee?

Mr Katf: It does provide some connectivity; there are some common members across it. The audit committee then seeks reporting—I think I am going to say on a quarterly basis but I will need to come back to you on the specifics of that.

CHAIR: Please do.

Answer:

The ATO Audit and Risk Committee receive both quarterly and annual updates from the ATO Security and Business Continuity Management Committee. Both committees have common advisers or members to ensure regular and ongoing information exchange.

The Audit and Risk Committee also receives briefings on security matters, including any matters raised by external scrutineers, throughout the year.

An annual update of the ATO's security posture and matters considered by the Security and Business Continuity Management Committee is provided to the Audit and Risk Committee in September of each year. This update also includes a more detailed cyber-security briefing.