

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

Bi-annual Hearing – 3 October 2008

Submission No:4.....

Question: 3
Topic: Overview of the links in the original Offset Alpine Printing court case and the recent court case
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Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP—I forgot the Virgin Islands. But, in all seriousness, there is this long-standing case involving Switzerland and the LGT Bank, where information was leaked with regard to Liechtenstein. Years have gone by and we have had no outcome. Are we likely to see an outcome of that case?

Mr D'Ascenzo—I do not know about the cases that you refer to or about the allegations of leaking.

Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP—It was very public.

CHAIR—You might seek some clarification for us and give us an update on that.

Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP—It was all over the papers.

Mr D'Ascenzo—But it may not—

Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP—The Offset Alpine printing press case.

Mr Konza—I think the matter you are referring to is in court.

CHAIR—Which makes it inappropriate for us to comment on it.

Mr Konza—There is nothing more that can be said on that. It is in court in Sydney.

Senator BOYCE—It is slightly on a side issue though, isn't it?

Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP—It is not on a tax issue.

CHAIR—Well, if it is a criminal activity—

Mr Konza—No, I think it is on a tax issue.

CHAIR—*I am just going to say that we will leave that one and, Commissioner, we would just ask if you would like to provide to this committee at some time a brief overview of the links between the original case and what might be happening now....*

Australian Taxation Office response:

The matters surrounding the Offset Alpine Printing Group have been reported in the media.

These reports state that the Tax Office has been investigating several persons over their involvement. One matter was settled mid way through a Federal Court hearing and one matter was reported as being argued before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Investigations were made and assessments were raised against another taxpayer.