

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

**Division/Agency:** Australian Taxation Office

**Question No:** 209

**Topic:** Tax Avoidance Taskforce

**Reference:** Written

**Senator:** Ketter

**Question:**

1. In response to Senate Question on Notice no. 333, Senator Cormann listed the 2016 Budget measure 'Tax Integrity Package – establishing the Tax Avoidance Taskforce' as one of the Government's unlegislated Budget Measures. To the ATO's knowledge, what aspects of the taskforce require legislation?
2. Why has legislation been delayed?
3. Is the ATO still recruiting for the taskforce? Where is the recruitment process at? If not finished, when is it likely to?
4. Did the establishment of the Taskforce have deadlines? Has the ATO met those deadlines? If not, what were the causes of delay?
5. Can the ATO provide a breakdown of ongoing staff and new staff in the Taskforce, including a breakdown of staff continuing from previous programs?
6. Does the ATO have estimates on staff who have left due to redundancy (forced, or voluntary) who have returned to the ATO taskforce, and can they be provided?

**Answer:**

1. One legislative amendment to the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* has been proposed to support the Tax Avoidance Taskforce by facilitating greater efficiency in the exchange of information from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to the Commissioner of Taxation.
2. The timing of when a Bill is introduced into Parliament is a matter for Government.
3. The ATO is still recruiting for the taskforce and for the 2016-2017 year have currently filled around 210 out of the 253 funded positions. The ATO is undertaking further recruitment to fill remaining vacancies and additional positions required for 2017-2018. Recruitment for the taskforce will be an ongoing process in order to build and maintain the staffing levels for positions funded out to 2020.
4. Funding of \$678.9 million was provided to the ATO over four years, to establish the Tax Avoidance Taskforce. It is expected to deliver \$3.7billion in net revenue. The Taskforce commenced on 1 July 2016 and will conclude on 30 June 2020.
5. The Taskforce builds on 900 staff working on existing programs dealing with multinational enterprises, large public and private programs and high wealth individuals. It will provide an additional 390 specialised staff over the life of the Taskforce.
6. No ATO employees, who have left employment due to a redundancy, have returned to

work on the taskforce.