

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question No: 139

Topic: Panama Papers

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. Recent media coverage has suggested investigations into the Panama Papers and related matters may have been compromised due to the investigation of the alleged \$165 million fraud. Not seeking comment on those allegations, but rather can you explain how the investigations unit into the Panama Papers is structured, and how it has been impacted by the ongoing investigation?
2. Has there been a rearrangement of personnel? Can you elaborate?
3. Has evidence about the Panama Papers allegations been compromised? If so, how? If (possibly) not, what assurances can you give that it hasn't.

Answer:

1. The investigations teams covering the Panama Papers are located in various sites in the Tax Evasion and Crime Unit and the Australian Federal Police. None of the investigations into the Panama Papers have been compromised.
2. There has been not been any rearrangement of personnel dealing with the investigations around Panama Papers.
3. No, ATO operations associated with the Panama Papers have not been compromised.