

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 33

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

Senator BRANDIS: Have any Customs officers been found to be involved in criminal or corrupt activity or any other activity that would be considered as breaching the integrity of Customs over the past 12 months?

Mr Carmody: In the last six months, which would go back to December 2011, no-one has been convicted.

Senator BRANDIS: How many have been charged?

Mr Carmody: In that period?

Senator BRANDIS: Yes.

Mr Carmody: On 25 December there was an officer issued with an arrest warrant for an incident outside of the workplace.

Senator BRANDIS: Can you provide the equivalent figure for 2007-08?

Mr Carmody: I do not have 2007-08.

Senator BRANDIS: Take it on notice, thanks.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

During 2007-08 Customs and Border Protection charged one officer with fraud offences and the New South Wales Police charged a Customs and Border Protection officer for an incident outside the workplace.

For the past twelve months the number of Customs and Border Protection officers charged is as follows:

- On 22 June 2011, information was received that a Customs and Border Protection officer had been charged by Queensland Police for an incident outside the workplace. This officer has resigned and the court case is pending.
- On 16 September 2011, a Customs and Border Protection was charged by New South Wales Police for an incident outside the workplace. The officer's employment was terminated before the court hearing.
- On 25 December 2011, a Customs and Border Protection officer was charged for an incident outside the workplace. Western Australia Police have issued an arrest warrant for this officer who is currently suspended pending the resolution of this matter.
- On 16 May 2012, a Customs and Border Protection officer was arrested and charged with theft by the Australian Federal Police at Melbourne Airport. This officer is currently suspended pending the court hearing.