

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question:** AET 3045

**Topic:** Wine-blending rules

**Hansard Page:** 107

**Senator EDWARDS asked:**

**Senator EDWARDS:** Has the ATO briefed the Australian Federal Police on specific cases it has ordered for any suspected breaches of laws and, if so, how many?

**Mr Olesen:** We do work cooperatively with other agencies. In relation to some wine equalisation tax schemes that we have had some concerns about, we have been working with the AFP.

**Senator EDWARDS:** You have been working with the AFP. On how many cases?

**Mr Olesen:** Two, according to my notes here.

**Senator EDWARDS:** Are they part of Project Wickenby?

**Mr Olesen:** I do not think so. I think they are a separate project.

**Senator EDWARDS:** Have you levelled specific allegations in those two cases?

**Mr Olesen:** I would have to take that on notice. I think that in relation to the cases we are dealing with there are suspicions of fraud, which is why we are dealing with the Federal Police.

**Answer:**

The ATO can confirm that it is currently investigating two matters relating to the wine equalisation tax with the assistance of the Australian Federal Police. These matters are ongoing and as such we are limited in what information can be disclosed. We can confirm that the investigations will address a range of possible offences, including fraud-related offences.

These cases are not a part of Operation Wickenby.