

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

(Budget Estimates 2 June 2005)

Outcome 2

Topic: **Lost or stolen laptops, mobile phones and related IT hardware.**

Written Question : **Supp Lundy 2**

Senator Lundy asked:

I ask the Agency to provide an update (the years 03/04 and 04/05 to date) on the number of laptop computers, mobile phones and any other IT-related hardware that have been lost or stolen? Please provide disaggregated figures and the action that was taken?

Answer:

2003-04	Mobile phones	Laptops	Mobile computing laptops	Other IT-related hardware
Lost	78	15	1	2 1 monitor and 1 workstation
Stolen	35	11	8	3 3 portable printers
Total	113	26	9	5

2004-05 to 31 May	Mobile phones	Laptops	Mobile computing laptops	Other IT-related hardware
Lost	82	18	1	4 1 monitor, 2 portable printers and 1 handset
Stolen	30	5	14*	4 2 portable printers and 2 handsets
Total	112	23	15	8

* These thefts are the subject of an official investigation.

- Loss or theft of mobile phones and portable computers is reported to the police and to our National Service Desk. Loss or theft of laptops is also reported to our IT Security Section. The National Service Desk places a 'bar' on outgoing calls from lost and stolen mobile phones.

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- The Tax Office meets the cost of laptops and mobile phone replacement, and has the option of seeking reimbursement from the user in cases of negligence.
- Any instance of loss or theft of equipment from Tax Office premises is reported to the local Security representative and to the police.
- Encryption software used by the Tax Office fully encrypts laptop hard drives and all information stored thereon, thereby preventing access to software and data.
- Encryption software is Defence Signals Directorate-accredited and the expertise needed to break the code is exceptionally high. It is extremely unlikely that any individual would possess the resources to break the code, and opportunistic thefts pose minimal threat to security.

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(Budget Estimates 2 June 2005)

Outcome 2

Topic: Security incident reporting

Written Question on Notice: Supp Lundy 3

Senator Lundy asked:

I ask the ATO to provide a list of all incidences notified on the ISIDRAS (DSD security incident reporting system) including the level notified.

Answer:

There have been no Category 3 or Category 4 incidents reported by the Tax Office.