

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

Question No. 19

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Senator BRANDIS: Mr Pezzullo, what is the most recent date to which the data of the illegal importation of tobacco has been collected?

Mr Pezzullo: I have got year-to-date figures that go to 12 December—so just over a month ago.

...

Senator BRANDIS: Because time is running out, can you respond to that question by placing on notice those figures to which you were referring. Do they indicate that in the last four months of 2012 there was an increase on the comparable figures for the previous year?

Mr Pezzullo: Regarding the comparable period in 2011, the data does go back that far. I think that we will just place the data on notice. Just looking at it by eye, I would say that—if anything—the latter part of 2012, with the exception of one month, seemed to actually on the whole represent a decline in detections, tonnage, sticks and duty evaded. But we will get the month-on-month data.

Senator BRANDIS: Can you give us the figures for both September to December 2011 and September to December 2012?

Mr Pezzullo: So the corresponding four months in both years?

Senator BRANDIS: That is right.

Mr Pezzullo: We have got it.

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

The following table refers to comparable tobacco and cigarette detections made by Customs and Border Protection in the sea cargo stream for the periods 1 September 2011 – 31 December 2011 and 1 September 2012 – 31 December 2012.

Month	Number of detections	Tobacco (tonnes)	Cigarettes (million sticks)	Duty evaded (\$m)
September 2011	8	1.02	25.56	9.25
October 2011	3	20.20	0.74	8.96
November 2011	3	27.06	8.64	14.64
December 2011	5	16.02	25.30	15.62
Total	19	64.30	60.24	48.47
September 2012	2	0.00	2.0	0.69
October 2012	2	2.62	3.0	2.19
November 2012	5	47.36	22.7	28.57
December 2012	9	8.45	7.2	6.20
Total	18	58.43	34.9	37.65