

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

**Question No. 74**

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

In relation to handguns:

1. How many handguns have been seized by Customs for each financial year since 07/08?
2. How many of these handguns for each financial year since 07/08 were subsequently returned to an importer/customer i.e. were not passed on to any other law enforcement agency or destroyed?
3. How many of the illegal handguns seized by Customs contained no serial number or identification information?
4. What proportion of illegal imports did this cohort represent?
5. How many times has Customs acted on the advice of the NSW Police Force in regards to the illegal importation of guns into Australia since the NSW Police uncovered the gun smuggling ring operating out of Sylvania Waters in March last year?

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

1. This question is identical to Question on Notice No. 8 from Senator Humphries at the hearing on 12 February 2013. For details please refer to that response.
2. This question is identical to Question on Notice No. 8 from Senator Humphries at the hearing on 12 February 2013. For details please refer to that response.
3. We are not able to provide an accurate figure as the absence of a serial number is not currently reported on in our illicit firearms detections.
4. We are not able to provide an accurate figure as the absence of a serial number is not currently reported on in our illicit firearms detections.
5. Since March 2012, Customs and Border Protection has acted on a total of thirty eight cases referred to us by the NSW Police Force, relating to illicit firearm importations.