

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ANALYSIS CENTRE

Question No. 124

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2006:

What access do Customs, ASIC and the ATO have to AUSTRAC's database?

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

Section 27 of the *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988* provides for the Director of AUSTRAC to authorise law enforcement agencies to gain access to financial transaction reports (FTR) information. Under this provision, the ATO, ASIC and ACS have been granted access to FTR information and AUSTRAC has entered into a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with these three agencies to oversee the form, conditions and protocols that allow these agencies to access and use FTR information. Access to the AUSTRAC's on-line database is provided to officers of these agencies who require such access in order to perform their duties effectively.

A total of 367 officers of the Australian Customs Service are eligible to gain on-line access to FTR information.

A total number of 62 officers of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission are eligible to gain on-line access to FTR information.

A maximum number of 1500 officers of the Australian Taxation Office are eligible to gain on-line access to FTR information.