

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012

18 October 2012

**Question:**        **SBT 1732**

**Topic:**            **Protective security policy framework (ATO)**

**Written:**         **Received from Committee – 26 October 2012**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1732. Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

**Answer:**

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has completed a preliminary review of its compliance with the mandatory requirements of the *Protective Security Policy Framework*, in order to provide an early indication of compliance and allow time to address any deficiencies before formal reporting to the Minister commences in 2013-14.

This review found that of the 33 mandatory requirements of the *Protective Security Policy Framework*, the ATO is fully compliant with 29 and partially compliant with the remaining 4.

The areas of partial compliance relate mainly to the full implementation of certain controls within the *Information Security Manual* of the *Protective Security Policy Framework*. A program of work to address these matters has been implemented, including a prioritised IT security compliance review program. Any non-compliance issues will be risk assessed and treated appropriately.

As part of its Enterprise Risk Management Framework, the ATO identifies and assesses enterprise security risks. Business units with specific security management responsibilities then oversee the implementation of risk mitigation programs. Significant issues are reported to the ATO Security Committee which is chaired at Second Commissioner level.

The requirements of the Protective Security Policy Framework are implemented through the ATO security policy framework, which comprises some 80 instructions and guidelines covering IT, information, personnel, and physical security aspects. These policy documents are available to staff on the ATO's intranet and a security awareness strategy ensures that key messages are reinforced regularly.