

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Additional Estimates  
2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency:** (insert agency)  
**Question:** (enter question number)  
**Topic:** AET 18-23 Tasmanian Business Scam  
**Reference:** written - 16 February 2016  
**Senator:** Abetz, Eric

**Question:**

Reference is made to a scam which saw many Tasmanian businesses deprived of their money with the ANZ Bank as reported on the 12th November, 2015 in The Mercury newspaper.

18. Has ASIC undertaken any investigation into this matter?  
(a) If so, what has the investigation revealed?
19. Are there any prosecutions pending?
20. How much money was scammed?
21. How many businesses were victimised?
22. Has any of the money been recovered?
23. What action, if any, has been taken?

**Answer:**

18. Has ASIC undertaken any investigation into this matter? If so, what has the investigation revealed??

ASIC has made inquiries of the ANZ bank in relation to this matter.

We understand that the bank's online banking system was accessed using publicly available information, including information accessed through a commercial online search company that was sourced from ASIC company registers.

The information from the ASIC registers is public information set out in accordance with the Corporations Act (see s1274 Corporations Act and Part 9.1 of the Corporations Regulations).

19. Are there any prosecutions pending?

We understand that the NSW police are investigating, and have arrested a person in relation to this matter who remains in custody.

20. How much money was scammed?

ANZ and/or the NSW Police are best placed to answer this question.

21. How many businesses were victimised?

ANZ and/or the NSW Police are best placed to answer this question.

22. Has any of the money been recovered?

ANZ and/or the NSW Police are best placed to answer this question.

23. What action, if any, has been taken?

ANZ and/or the NSW Police are best placed to answer this question