Department/Agency: ATO
Question: 34
Topic: Taxpayer information provided to FIRB
Reference: Spoken – 02 June 2015
Senator: Dastyari, Sam

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: Thank you. I was asking more specifically about the ATO's perspective. Mr Jordan, there are instances where you have provided information through government or FIRB. How it gets there really does not matter. But you have provided information to FIRB about the tax affairs of individual companies when they are looking at foreign takeovers or whatever FIRB is relevantly look at.

Mr Jordan: I understand that is correct. It is information that we would provide to the relevant people in Treasury. I am not sure how finite or precise the particular details are with respect to individual taxpayers, or how granular that gets. Personally, I have not been involved directly in that sort of area.

Senator DASTYARI: Is it a regular occurrence that you would be providing that information to FIRB?

Mr Olesen: We would probably have to take that on notice in terms of the numbers.

Senator DASTYARI: Mr Olesen, can advise on notice how often that information regarding the taxation affairs has been provided to FIRB through Treasury or directly—it really does not matter how it gets there—in the past three years, I will say, but if you want to choose an easier period of time to have a calculation for.

Answer:

34.   The ATO regularly provides information to Treasury to inform the Foreign Investment Review Board about the tax issues associated with proposed foreign investments. Information can vary from a detailed examination of risks related to a proposal, to a one-line statement that there is a low-to-no risk.

The number of responses provided over the last two financial years is detailed in the following table:

Date	Number of responses
1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014	941
1 July 2014 to 15 June 2015	1,299