

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Australian Taxation Office  
**Question No:** 143  
**Topic:** Serious Non-Compliance unit resourcing  
**Reference:** Hansard page 29 (30 May 2017)  
**Senator:** McAllister, Jenny

**Question:**

Senator McALLISTER: I want to ask you about the compliance program, or what may be called the Serious Non-Compliance unit. Is it still in existence?

Mr William Day: There is a tax evasion and crime team within Private Groups and High Wealth Individuals. That does the same work that the former Serious Non-Compliance business line looked at and includes a focus on financial crime, phoenixing and aggressive tax planning. That fits within the Private Groups and High Wealth Individuals business line. The compliance program was actually a publication process.

Ms Lendon: We have renamed some of the areas, but essentially the work fits within the tax evasion and crime unit, which covers off financial crime, as Will mentioned, phoenix and some of the investigations and prosecutions work.

Senator McALLISTER: So it has been renamed. Has there been any change in the resourcing for that group?

Mr William Day: There have been some resourcing changes over the years—

Ms Lendon: Essentially for the business line itself it has remained, for the last few years, around 850 people. We can take that on notice if you want to get more specific about the areas within.

Senator McALLISTER: The whole business unit has 850 people—

Ms Lendon: 1,850 people.

Senator McALLISTER: What about the Serious Non-Compliance unit?

Ms Lendon: I will have to take that on notice and come back with the figure.

**Answer:**

The Serious Non-Compliance and Aggressive Tax Planning business lines were amalgamated during the 2013–14 financial year. The unit dealing with tax crime (now titled Tax Evasion and Crime) has averaged 470 full time equivalent employees over the last four years.