

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 16

Senator Furner asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Mr Colvin: ... Last financial year we seized nearly six tonnes of illegal narcotics. This year we are not tracking as high as that pro rata, but we are tracking higher in the number of actual seizures; more seizures but smaller amounts. It is cyclical and it is difficult for us to predict one year to the next whether we will have large quantities or a large number of seizures. At the moment, for this financial year, we have seized just under two tonnes of illegal narcotics and that has come from nearly 2,000 different seizures. To give you an example, for the full 2010-11 financial year we had 3,762 actual seizures, so pro rata we are ahead of that number, but we seized just over five tonnes of actual narcotics. This year we are at about two tonnes of narcotics.

Senator FURNER: Out of those 2,000 different seizures, how many convictions have resulted?

Mr Colvin: I would need to take that on notice. It will be some time before most of those matters from this financial year make it through the courts. I would suggest that none of those matters in this financial year, unless they offer a guilty plea and are dealt with very quickly by the courts, would have resulted in a conviction.

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

As at 31 December 2011, the AFP has charged 120 alleged offenders in relation to drug seizures from this financial year. At this stage, no convictions have been recorded.