

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 21

Senator Furner asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator FURNER: Could you inform the committee of how many detections of undeclared firearms in air cargo Customs made in 2011-12?

Mr Pezzullo: I might ask Mr Wall to speak to those matters. Ms Kelley looks after post-border investigations and Mr Wall deals with our intelligence matters.

Mr Wall: From July 2011 to July 2012, we detected 1,344 undeclared firearms, firearms parts, accessories and magazines across all streams. That included 76 firearms, which of course is made up of handguns, rifles and shotguns; 748 conventional firearm magazines—the magazines are also for handguns, rifles and shotguns—and 520 items consisting of various parts and accessories. I can also say, for the new financial year up until 30 August, we have detected 146, comprised of eight firearms—the same sort of composition as I previously outlined; 36 conventional firearm magazines and 102 items consisting of various parts and accessories.

Senator FURNER: How do the detections of 2011-12 compare with the period, for instance, in 2007-08, if you have those figures handy?

Mr Wall: I only have from 2008-09.

Senator FURNER: Okay, I will put that on notice.

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

The attached table provides the data in relation all undeclared firearm detections for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2012. It should be noted however that there was a significant change in statistical collection and reporting from the 2008/09 financial year onwards, with the introduction of a new national recording system – the Detained Goods Management System (DGMS).

Note: In 2007/08, a number of detection categories (for example, other weapons, quarantine, revenue, prohibited items, wildlife) were not captured in our reporting systems. A straight data comparison between the 2007/08 and 2011/12 financial year figures would be statistically unsound as the data drawn upon is from different data sets.

Undeclared Firearm Detections - 01 July 2007 to 30 June 2012						
	Stream	2007/08*	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Conventional Firearms	Air	5	109	148	55	232
	Sea	121	155	32	27	22
	International Mail	227	708	1,669	817	1014
	Passengers/Smallcraft	51	50	47	280	76
	Total	404	1,022	1,896	1,179	1,344
Replicas	Air	36	23	16	21	17
	Sea	1,080	252	357	89	126
	International Mail	329	291	486	480	582
	Passengers/Smallcraft	325	275	182	242	242
	Total	1,770	841	1,041	832	967
Airguns (inc Airguns, BB guns and paintball markers)	Air	50	25	31	31	66
	Sea	915	140	70	37	42
	International Mail	839	1,171	1,229	2,342	1,907
	Passengers/Smallcraft	1,682	1,550	1,631	1,501	1002
	Total	3,486	2,886	2,961	3,911	3,017
Total	Air	91	157	195	107	315
	Sea	2,116	547	459	153	190
	International Mail	1,395	2,170	3,384	3,639	3,503
	Passengers/Smallcraft	2,058	1,875	1,860	2,023	1,320
	Total	5,660	4,749	5,898	5,922	5,328

Table 1: Undeclared Firearm Detections – All Streams