

Scott Tredwell

From: Sia Lagos
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2017 8:53 AM
To: Sia Lagos
Subject: FW: Federal Court Statement
Attachments: image004.jpg

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Sia Lagos
Sent: Friday, 22 April 2016 7:28 PM
To: Bruce Phillips <Bruce.Phillips@fedcourt.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Federal Court Statement

Thanks Bruce

Great outcome - well done and have a great weekend!

Sia

Sent from my iPad

On 22 Apr 2016, at 7:04 pm, Bruce Phillips <Bruce.Phillips@fedcourt.gov.au> wrote:

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Chief,

Please see ATO's public response below:

From: Media Unit [<mailto:MediaUnit@ato.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 22 April 2016 6:21 PM
To: Bruce Phillips
Cc: Media Unit
Subject: RE: Federal Court Statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Hi Bruce

For your information we have issued the below response to the Australian Financial Review (Joanna Mather) and will use it as required over the weekend.

- The Commissioner of Taxation acknowledges the strong and cooperative relationship between the Australian Taxation Office and the Federal Court of Australia.
- In yesterday's hearing of the Senate Inquiry into corporate tax avoidance, the Commissioner said the ATO was in discussions with the Federal Court to work with them to identify and prioritise strategically important cases.
- These remarks have been taken out of context, with some media reporting that a "deal" is close to being struck between the ATO and the Federal Court.

- The Commissioner has the utmost respect for the processes and protocols which govern Australia's judicial system. The discussions referred to by the Commissioner are taking place as part of broader public consultation governed by the National Court Framework. The Commissioner strongly refutes any suggestions that these discussions contravene the terms of that Framework.

Regards, Julia

ATO Media

Australian Taxation Office
Media line 02 621 61901
Connect with us

From: Bruce Phillips [<mailto:Bruce.Phillips@fedcourt.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 22 April 2016 4:17 PM
To: Media Unit
Subject: RE: Federal Court Statement

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No worries. Have a good weekend.

From: Media Unit [<mailto:MediaUnit@ato.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 22 April 2016 4:11 PM
To: Bruce Phillips
Cc: Media Unit
Subject: RE: Federal Court Statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Hi Bruce

We appreciate you sending this through.

Regards, Julia

ATO Media

Australian Taxation Office
Media line 02 621 61901
Connect with us

From: Bruce Phillips [<mailto:Bruce.Phillips@fedcourt.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 22 April 2016 3:48 PM
To: Media Unit
Subject: Federal Court Statement

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Julia,

Further to phone call this is the statement issued today:

The following can be attributed to a Federal Court spokesman:

It has been reported that yesterday the Commissioner of Taxation made comments to the Senate Economics Committee about working with the Federal Court to fast track “strategically important cases” where it is believed that a “principle needs to be set”. Some reports in the media refer to a “deal” between the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Court.

There is no “deal” being struck between the Court and the ATO about listing of cases, or any other matter. The Court is not, and has not been, in any private discussions with any party, including the ATO, about their cases. There have been recent wide-ranging public consultations with the tax profession, including the ATO, about the reorganisation of the Court’s work, including its taxation work, to improve case management and organisation of workload. This has been in the context of the recently established “National Court Framework”.

The Federal Court regularly identifies cases, the outcome of which, might impact upon cases pending in it or other courts and tribunals. Consideration is then given to early hearings if appropriate. That process is undertaken as part of management of cases and involves all parties to the litigation.

The Court has undertaken extensive consultation with law firms and litigants involved in each national practice area. The only indication regarding the way the Court will manage cases has been given in the public domain.

At the beginning of last year the court established the National Court Framework that sees cases by practice area rather than Registry location. Eight practice areas have been identified, one of which is taxation. (see link: <http://www.fedcourt.gov.au/law-and-practice/national-court-framework>)

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