

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0312) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Could the Department advise whether any request has been made by the Australian Government on their behalf to the Government of Indonesia to gain access to biometric records of persons entering Indonesia or have been detained by Immigration officials for the purpose of cross checking with the biometric information collected from persons who have entered Australia as IMAs? If so, when was the request made, and what has been the response? If access has commenced, when did it commence?

Answer:

As we do with all regional partners the Department has had discussions with the Government of Indonesia regarding border control and options for expanding the use of biometrics.

There is currently no arrangement in place with the Government of Indonesia for access to their biometric holdings.