Question: If you wanted to see what the staffing levels are you could I imagine. What is your understanding of what is so sensitive about having that information given to us?

Answer: Serco has previously advised the Joint Select Committee that it will provide staff numbers in-camera. That for operational and security reasons Serco does not make staffing numbers public.

There is concern that if staffing numbers at particular centres were to become public, it is reasonable to expect the information will become available to the client population, which may compromise Serco's ability to maintain the security of detention facilities and the good order within detention facilities, endangering the safety of staff and those in our care.

Serco has advised that there is a commercial in confidence element to the issue as the significant proportion of the cost of delivering its services, and therefore the price it bids for those services, is related to the number of people that it has employed.