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OCOM 2020/782

Senator Katy Gallagher
C/O Committee Secretary
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallagher

I appeared at the Senate Select Committee hearing on COVID-19 on 24 September 2020. In my capacity as Commissioner of the Australian Border Force, I gave evidence to the Senate. I have become aware of the need to correct a response I made to a question from Senator McKim.

The particular reference for correction is in response to Senator McKim's question:
"How many people that have claimed asylum in Australia are being held on Christmas Island, apart from the family from Biloela?"

My response to this question was in part:

"As I understand it, there are maybe two people who previously did claim asylum, whose visas have been cancelled on the grounds of Section 501 of the Migration Act, which is in relation to criminal matters and are now being held on Christmas Island and they did, as I understand it, the two of them, previously claim asylum."

I wish to update my response to the Committee as this response contained an inaccuracy and I am providing the following evidence in response to this question:

On 4 August 2020, the Government announced the re-activation of the North West Point Immigration Detention Centre (NWPIDC) on Christmas Island to relieve capacity pressures on the detention network in Australia. As at 22 September 2020, 151 detainees have been transferred to NWPIDC. As at 22 September 2020, 62 detainees have been transferred to Christmas Island, whose refugee visas were cancelled due to being a risk to the community, 61 under section 501 and one under section 116 (1)(g) of the Migration Act. The offence types committed by these detainees are below:

Offence	Total
Assault	24
Other Violent Offence	10
Grievous Bodily Harm, Reckless Injury	6
Armed Robbery	5
Child Sex Offences	<5
Rape and other Sexual Offences	<5
Drug Offences	<5
Theft, robbery, break and enter	<5
Organised Crime	<5
Threatening to use a weapon	<5

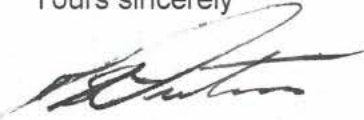
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Offence	Total
Domestic Violence	<5
Other Non-Violent Offence	<5
Manslaughter	<5
Total	62

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Senate Select Committee hearing on COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



Michael Outram APM
Commissioner

28 September 2020