Question: I have put this same question to Serco, but what has the DIAC staff turnover been for those who have been deployed to detention centres?

Answer: The term ‘turnover’, is normally calculated by expressing the number of permanent staff who cease employment over a given period, as a percentage of the total number of staff permanently employed over the same period.

The term does not apply in the detention centre context because the department has arrangements in place to manage the deployment of departmental staff to work at detention centres for a specific duration. The duration of deployment may vary according to job, family and role requirements and is generally either between two to six weeks or three to 12 months. In the case of longer term deployments, those greater than three months, staff must undergo a general health assessment and resilience check before being deployed. In addition, staff working in very remote detention centre environments must take respite leave after being deployed for three months.

The combined number of departmental staff deployed to various Immigration detention facilities over the last two financial years (FY09/10 and FY10/11) was 3,139.

As at 31 October 2011, 308 departmental staff were deployed at detention facilities.