

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 25 October 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(IABA/010) – PJC ACLEI - Inquiry into integrity of Australia's border arrangements - Intelligence sharing -

Asked:

With respect to information and intelligence sharing between agencies, are there any legislative, policy or other constraints that DIBP has identified, whether internally or through engagement with other agencies, that could be removed or amended to enhance border integrity operations?

Answer:

DIBP has identified a number of constraints to information and intelligence sharing between agencies, including:

- more than 500 secrecy provisions in Commonwealth legislation, plus other policies and guidelines, impose different limitations on the availability and use of information;
- information sharing relationships between DIBP and Commonwealth partners have been heavily transactional in nature. This model is no longer suitable given the impact of digital technologies and the huge flows of data being generated and requested; and
- significant manual intervention is required to transform DIBP data into a form that is fit for purpose for the requesting agency. The lack of automation is a significant cost and barrier to ongoing operational data sharing.

DIBP and partner agencies are addressing these constraints through the implementation of legislative, policy and technological reforms.

For example, the Parliament recently passed amendments to the *Australian Border Force Act 2015* that simplify the process for disclosure of DIBP information to other Government agencies.