

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 45

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Was the office of the Prime Minister approach for their advice?

If no:

- a) Why was advice not sought from the PMO?
- b) Who made the decision not to approach the PMO?
- c) When was the PII matter advised to the PMO?

Answer:

Ministerial level discussions are a matter for the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

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Question No. 56

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

When was this definition established?

- a. By whom?

Answer:

The term 'boat arrival' did not require considered definition until the introduction of on water activities where boats continued to be detected and intercepted but did not necessarily result in the transfer of personnel into the custody of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). If the crew and passengers of a boat venture are not transferred into the care of DIBP, then the boat is not considered to have arrived.

- a. This definition was discussed between CJATF and Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

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Question No. 127

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

How many times did naval assets cross into Indonesian waters?

Answer:

six

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Question No. 133

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

What are the Government's policies regarding on-water operations?

Answer:

The Government's policies were set out in its election policy platform.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 137

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Are there additional conduct guidelines for navy personnel that assist with how to approach and handle people with possible PTSD and/or other trauma related injuries?

Answer:

This question falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 138

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Are there specific conduct guidelines for Navy personnel regarding engaging with minors?

Answer:

This question falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 139

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Are there specific conduct guidelines for Navy personnel regarding engaging with people with disabilities?

Answer:

This question falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 140

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Are there specific conduct guidelines for Navy personnel regarding engaging with people from different cultures?

Answer:

This question falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 192

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

How many staff, including public servants and military officers, are currently working on Operation Sovereign Borders? Can the information please include rank and APS classification and which organisation each individual is employed by?

Answer:

The JATF headquarters is made up of the following staff:

Agency	Numbers
ACBPS	32
AGD	2
AFP	3
Defence	1
ADF	9
DFAT	3
DIBP	11
PM&C	3
ACC	1
	65

Ranks	Numbers
3 Star General	1
SES	2
EL2	8
Captain (ADF06)	1
EL1	18
APS 6	23
APS 5	2
APS 4	1
CMDR	1
LTCOL	1
LCDR	1
SQNLDR	2
MAJ	1
AFP Special Agent	3
	65

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Question No. 201

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Are the military personnel required to report operational events to staffers from the Minister for Immigration's office?

Answer:

No.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 224

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

What advice and/or evidence have the JATF received that suggests that the repression of information is necessary to stop asylum seeker boats arriving in Australia?

Answer:

This question falls within the public interest immunity claimed by the Minister of Immigration and Border Protection on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 227

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 26th of September Australian authorities were reportedly involved in the rescue and handover of 44 asylum seekers to Indonesian authorities, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity Claim? What was the evidence used to justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

All incidents are analysed against to these criteria and released, or not released, accordingly.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 228

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 27th of September Australian authorities were reportedly involved in the rescue and handover of 31 asylum seekers to Indonesian authorities, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used to justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 229

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 7th of November Australian authorities reportedly rescued a boatload of asylum seekers off the coast of Indonesia. Indonesian authorities refused to accept the asylum seekers and they were then transferred to the Christmas Island Detention Centre, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used to justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 230

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 11th of November Australian authorities reportedly intercepted by Australian authorities close to Darwin, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used to justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

All incidents are analysed against to these criteria and released, or not released, accordingly.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 231

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 17th of November Australian authorities were reportedly involved in a rescue operation when the hull of an asylum seeker boat was torn off in an attempted towing, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used to justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

All incidents are analysed against to these criteria and released, or not released, accordingly.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 232

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 2nd of December 28 asylum seekers arrived on Christmas island undetected, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used to justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

All incidents are analysed against to these criteria and released, or not released, accordingly.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 233

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

In December 2013 and January 2014 reports confirmed that authorities were turning around or pushing back asylum seeker boats to Indonesia waters, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used justify this?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

All incidents are analysed against to these criteria and released, or not released, accordingly.

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A CLAIM OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY RAISED OVER DOCUMENTS HEARING: 31 January 2014

Question No. 234

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

On the 17th January the Minister for Immigration confirmed that Australia violated Indonesian territorial waters, what analysis was done to determine whether this incident should fall under the Public Interest Immunity claim? What was the evidence used to justify this? How does the public disclose of this incident differ from those stated above?

Answer:

The criteria under which the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is claiming public interest immunity are outlined in his letter to the Senate, tabled on 18 November 2013.

All incidents are analysed against to these criteria and released, or not released, accordingly.