

**Question on notice no. 344**

**Portfolio question number: AE21-344**

**2020-21 Additional estimates**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio**

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Australian Border Force on 22 March 2021—

How many detainees have been removed from Australia since and including April 2020, and to what countries? Please provide a breakdown of:

- a. month of deportation;
- b. classification of detainee (e.g. maritime arrival, overstayer, s501 visa cancellation, other visa cancellation, air arrival - non immigration cleared, seaport arrival, etc.) ;
- c. country deported to;
- d. voluntary and involuntary deportations, and
- e. if chartered flights were used in those deportations.
- i. If chartered flights were used, please provide a breakdown of associated costs.

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES  
22 MARCH 2021**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Australian Border Force**

**Program 1.3: Onshore Compliance and Detention**

**AE21-344 - Detainees removed from Australia since and including April 2020**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

How many detainees have been removed from Australia since and including April 2020, and to what countries? Please provide a breakdown of:

- a. month of deportation;
- b. classification of detainee (e.g. maritime arrival, overstayer, s501 visa cancellation, other visa cancellation, air arrival - non immigration cleared, seaport arrival, etc.);
- c. country deported to;
- d. voluntary and involuntary deportations, and
- e. if chartered flights were used in those deportations.
- i. If chartered flights were used, please provide a breakdown of associated costs.

*Answer:*

Deportation is concerned with persons who are leaving Australia subject to a deportation or under s200 of the *Migration Act 1958*. When a person is deported from Australia they are a lawful non-citizen who holds a visa. Their visa ceases when they leave Australia.

'Removal' is the term used to describe the removal from Australia of non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa and so are unlawful.

- a. month of deportation;
- d. voluntary and involuntary deportations;

<b>Voluntary Removals from onshore Immigration detention (1 April 2020 to 31 Jan 2021)</b>		
<b>Departure Month</b>	<b>Fin Year</b>	
	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021 to 31 Jan</b>
Jul	N/A	55
Aug	N/A	97
Sep	N/A	105
Oct	N/A	85
Nov	N/A	113
Dec	N/A	78
Jan	N/A	66
Feb	N/A	
Mar	N/A	
Apr	18	
May	18	
Jun	32	
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>599</b>

<b>Involuntary Removals from onshore Immigration detention (1 April 2020 to 31 Jan 2021)</b>		
<b>Departure Month</b>	<b>Fin Year</b>	
	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021 to 31 Jan</b>
Jul	N/A	<5
Aug	N/A	5
Sep	N/A	0
Oct	N/A	6
Nov	N/A	<5
Dec	N/A	<5
Jan	N/A	<5
Feb	N/A	
Mar	N/A	
Apr	0	
May	0	
Jun	<5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>19</b>

**b. classification of detainee**

<b>Removals from onshore Immigration detention by unlawful reason group (1 April 2020 to 31 Jan 2021)</b>		
<b>Unlawful reason group</b>	<b>Involuntary Removal</b>	<b>Voluntary Removal</b>
Criminal	0	<5
Irregular Maritime Arrival	0	6
Other Unauthorised Arrival	<5	66
Overstayer	<5	232
Unknown	0	<5
Visa Cancellation	15	359
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>667</b>

**c. country deported to;**

<b>Removals from onshore Immigration detention by citizenship at departure (1 April 2020 to 31 Jan 2021)</b>		
<b>Citizenship at Departure*</b>	<b>Involuntary Removal</b>	<b>Voluntary Removal</b>
Afghanistan	0	<5
Albania	0	5
Algeria	0	<5
Austria	0	<5
Belgium	0	<5
Bosnia - Herzegovina	0	<5
Brazil	0	11
Canada	0	<5
Cape Verde	0	8
Chile	0	<5
China	0	47
Colombia	0	5
Denmark	0	<5
Egypt	0	<5
Estonia	0	<5
Ethiopia	0	<5
Fiji	0	<5
France	0	11
Germany	0	5
Guatemala	0	<5
Hong Kong	0	28
India	0	18
Indonesia	0	<5

**Removals from onshore Immigration  
detention by citizenship at departure  
(1 April 2020 to 31 Jan 2021)**

Iran	0	<5
Iraq	0	<5
Ireland	0	9
Israel	0	<5
Italy	<5	<5
Japan	0	<5
Kenya	0	<5
Korea, Republic of (South)	0	8
Malaysia	0	45
Malta	0	<5
Mexico	0	<5
Myanmar	0	<5
Netherlands	0	<5
New Zealand	12	230
Nigeria	0	<5
Norway	0	<5
Pakistan	0	<5
Papua New Guinea	0	<5
Philippines	0	5
Poland	0	<5
Portugal	0	<5
Romania	0	<5
Samoa	0	<5
Serbia, Republic of	0	<5
Singapore	0	<5
Slovenia	0	<5
South Africa	0	<5
Spain	0	<5
Sri Lanka	0	<5
Stateless	0	<5
Switzerland	0	<5
Taiwan	0	13
Thailand	0	<5
Turkey	0	13
Ukraine	0	<5
United Kingdom	<5	20
United States of America	0	10
Unknown	0	19
Vietnam	<5	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>667</b>

\*Removed to their country of origin or a third country.

**e. if chartered flights were used in those deportations.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ABF has utilised chartered aircraft to undertake removal operations predominantly focussed on high risk detainees. Commercial flights have been used where available and where escorts were not required.

**i. If chartered flights were used, please provide a breakdown of associated costs.**

Identification of costs associated with specific charter flights:

Goods Received/Invoice Received receipt reports from SAP outlines costs per service provider purchase orders, rather than the type of service provided. Without detailed analysis by invoice, it is not possible to separately identify costs relating to specific charter flights, even if the date of the flight is known. Invoices issued by service providers may capture several different types of transport and escort costs, (eg. security, travel, health) which may in turn be coded to different cost centres. Accordingly, the manual intervention required to undertake this identification would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.