

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/034) - February 2014 attacks on Manus - employment status - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 67) asked:

Senator McKIM: Mr Pezzullo, can you please tell me whether any of the guards or staff members at Manus who were identified as being involved in attacks on detainees at Manus in 2014 are still working at Manus?

Mr Pezzullo: I might ask Ms Moy to come and assist me. But I do not have any personal knowledge about whether individuals are still on the books or not. I am familiar with the incident that you refer to, but whether such staff members are in the employ of the company, I just do not know. Perhaps Ms Moy can assist us. Just to rephrase the question for her, Senator, did you say persons who were involved in the attacks?

Senator McKIM: Yes. The question is: are any employees of the garrison services at Manus—or any other staff at the Manus detention centres or RPCs—who were involved in the February 2014 attacks still working at the RPCs?

Ms Moy: Senator, for such a specific group of people for a specific incident, I would need to take that on notice and check against the individual employees. In terms of just as a general note, I can advise that our service providers are required under the contract to look at any poor behaviour—if we could describe it as any poor behaviour—and, as a general rule, those individuals no longer work within the regional processing centres.

Senator McKIM: All right; thank you, Ms Moy. But you will take on notice whether—
Ms Moy: I will take that question on notice for the specific event.

Answer:

The Department previously advised the Senate inquiry hearing of 10 June 2014 that no one named in the Cornall review is still working at the Regional Processing Centres.

The Department implemented recommendations from the Cornall report, including ensuring service providers do not re-employ anyone who may have committed criminal offences or personnel who are terminated due to code of conduct breaches.

Commonwealth contracts with all service providers in Regional Processing Centres contain personnel requirements, including that all personnel are, and remain, of good character, and are appropriately skilled, qualified and trained to undertake these roles and duties.

Broadspectrum has in place a 'phased local employee integration strategy' in relation to personnel who are citizens of Papua New Guinea. Broadspectrum engages with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (PNG Police) in this respect, and monitor intelligence through its specialist security services provider.