

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE15/051) - Mr. Burnside letter campaign - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 12) asked:

Senator BILYK: Just to clarify: if I were a detainee onshore and I received mail, I would be able to go and pick that up, or have it literally delivered to me—

Mr Outram: I will find out the precise details of that.

Senator BILYK: and I would not have to open it in front of other people?

Mr Outram: I will come back to you today with an answer to that onshore.

*Answer:*

All mail addressed to detainees is treated confidentially and provided unopened to that person on the same day as it is received at the facility, subject to security requirements (detailed below). Where mail is addressed to a detainee, they will be notified to collect it from the relevant area within the facility. Each detainee must sign the appropriate register / log to acknowledge receipt of their mail.

All mail received at facilities is visually inspected with appropriate equipment before being provided to detainees unopened. Serco staff electronically scans all incoming mail.

If there is a reasonable suspicion that a letter or package may contain Illegal, Excluded or Controlled Items, the detainee must be requested to open the letter or package addressed to them in the presence of Serco staff.

Should a detainee refuse to open a letter or package in the presence of staff when requested to do so, the letter or package is withheld and the Department's relevant Regional Commander is contacted immediately.