

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/153) - Convicted criminals in Immigration Detention Facilities - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

- How many convicted criminals are currently in immigration detention?
- Please provide a breakdown of the number of convicted murderers, rapists, paedophiles and violent offenders in immigration detention over the past year.
- What extra security measures are in place (if any) to guard this cohort and keep them separate from asylum seekers? Are they separate from asylum seekers in all places and at all times?

Answer:

As at 30 April 2015 departmental records indicate there were 448 individuals in immigration detention facilities that have been convicted of a criminal offence. In addition 22 detainees had been found guilty without a conviction being recorded.

Offending histories are not routinely recorded by the department unless these convictions were taken into consideration in relation to the cancellation or refusal of a person's visa. However, based on the detainee population of 30 April 2015, some of the more significant criminal histories recorded include; detainees charged with homicide or related offences (4), offences against the person such as assault (165), sexual assault (70), Escape immigration detention (8), abduction (12), disturbance and affray (26), dishonesty and property offences (111) and crimes involving illegal drugs (66).

The department takes the safety and security of immigration detention facilities extremely seriously and placement risk assessments consider an individual's known criminal history when making decisions in relation to the safety of the detainee and others when considering placement and management within an immigration detention facility.