

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: Other Agency

Question No. SBE14/201

Senator Rhiannon asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.

1. During October 2014 Estimates, DFAT confirmed that eight people Australia has returned to Sri Lanka have lodged complaints of torture.
 - a. Has ASIO been briefed about these cases?
 - b. Does ASIO have any role in investigating the veracity of these cases?
 - c. What is the status of these complaints and what is ASIO's role in the process?
2. Do ASIO, DFAT and/or the Department of Immigration and Border Protection share information about what happens to asylum seekers or refugees who are returned to Sri Lanka from Australia?
3. Does ASIO assess diplomatic staff before they take up residence in Australia?
4. Does ASIO apply the same rules to all diplomatic staff irrespective of which country they represent when they come to Australia?
5. Are British diplomatic staff assessed in the same way, that diplomatic staff from Arabic countries are? In what ways does such assessment differ, if any?
6. Is there any ranking of embassies that determine what checks are carried out on diplomatic staff?
7. Has ASIO been briefed about any of President Rajapakse's relatives being involved in people smuggling?
8. The Sri Lankan media has reported that the President's son is involved in people smuggling. Are you aware of these reports?
9. Has any ASIO analysis been carried out to assess if the President's son or sons are involved in people smuggling?
10. Has ASIO had any discussions with DFAT, PM&C or any government official about allegations that President Rajapakse's relatives are involved in people smuggling? May I have the details?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. ASIO does not comment on individuals.
2. ASIO does not comment on investigations or operations
- 3-6. It is not appropriate to identify the basis on which visa applications are referred for assessment.
- 7-10. ASIO does not comment on specific operations or investigations.