

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/388) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Who does the Minister office communicate with in the PNG Government regarding the Manus Island facility?

c. Was information sourced from this person regarding the violence?

i. If so, what were the details of that information?

ii. If not, why not, especially in regards to reports that PNG police and locals were involved?

Answer:

Minister Morrison spoke to Minister Pato directly on a number of occasions in relation to matters covered under the Regional Resettlement Arrangements, but any significant communication has been through letter, usually through the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby. The former Minister had direct contact with PNG Government during Ministerial Bilateral meetings between Australia and PNG.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby communicate regularly with senior PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority (ICSA) staff and Minister Pato's office in Port Moresby. Senior departmental staff often communicate directly with their relevant counterparts in PNG ICSA. For daily operational matters, Departmental staff at the centre often liaise directly with PNG ICSA staff.