

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/013) - (ABYAN)- Medical files - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 52) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: There is a fresh request in today from her lawyers, requesting full access on her behalf to her own medical files. She wants to see her own medical files. Will you comply with that?

Mr Skill: Yes, we understand that. I understand that we have gone back to the lawyers and indicated that we do require her consent.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Today?

Mr Skill: That is my understanding. I will confirm whether that correspondence has actually gone, but that is certainly the position: that we require her consent, because she is a refugee. She has refugee health records that we cannot access without her written consent, and we asked for that so that we could investigate some of the claims that were made by her lawyer earlier in the week with regard to lack of care. We were not provided with that permission.

Answer:

On 19 October 2015 there was correspondence between Abyan's lawyer and the Department regarding access to Abyan's medical files and other information. After obtaining the medical files from IHMS, the Department provided them to the lawyer during 22 and 23 October 2015.