

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 60**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:**

1. In relation to immigration detention centre policing: Can you provide an update on the current status of the MOU between the AFP, DIAC, SERCO and the State and Territory police?
2. Why is it taking so long to finalise the last MOUs? What are the points of disagreement that are holding up the process?
3. When do you expect the MOUs to be finalized?
4. Are you satisfied that the signed MOUs clearly detail the roles and responsibilities for each agency when a riot or escalated incident occurs that SERCO cannot contain?
5. Has additional Commonwealth funding and resources been provided where appropriate to State and Territory police?
6. Have AFP offices been involved in training State and Territory police in public order management to deal with incidents of this nature at detention centres?
7. How many incidents have the AFP responded to at any immigration detention centre over the past twelve months? Detail the nature of the incident, the response, how many officers were involved.

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

1. As DIAC are the lead agency on the MoU process, this question should be referred to DIAC for an appropriate response.
2. As DIAC are the lead agency on the MoU process, this question should be referred to DIAC for an appropriate response.
3. The AFP is unable to comment on the expected finalisation date of the MoUs.
4. The signed MoUs clearly set out the roles of Serco, State and Territory police, and the AFP.
5. This is a matter for DIAC. AFP is not aware whether funding has been provided to State and Territory police.
6. The AFP does not deliver training to State or Territory police in public order management to deal with incidents at Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs). However, the AFP's Specialist Response Group (SRG) has been involved in interoperability training with other State and Territory police services, in relation to public order management at IDCs. This generally occurs when SRG resources are deployed to assist other jurisdictions, to ensure consistency and interoperability within an operational context when AFP and jurisdictions are working together to resolve an incident.

7. Between January 2012 and January 2013 the AFP received 225 referrals relating to alleged incidents at Australian Immigration Detention Centres. Of these 225 referrals, 53 were accepted for Investigation, 34 of which have since been finalised. Of the 34 investigations finalised, two (2) have resulted in a successful prosecution.

The incidents have generally related to allegations of:

- Assault
- Verbal and physical threats
- Criminal damage
- Sexual Assault

Each incident is treated on its merits according to the circumstances at the time. The AFP does not routinely record the full extent of resources committed to each incident or investigation, nor the number of people involved in each incident. To research this level of specific detail would involve considerable resource impost.