

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(AE14/058) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Macdonald (L&CA 88) asked:

CHAIR: Could you also indicate whether your department gave an estimate of what it might cost to the former government when they made the decisions to have the offshore processing. I am just interested whether this information was sought from you before the decision was made to put them there.

Mr Bowles: We can take that on notice. I just might add: we deal with trying to understand the fixed and variable cost issues here. That is why just giving a bland number as an average is quite difficult because it depends on the numbers flowing through, who they are, but then the fixed costs—

*Answer:*

The former Government was provided with estimated costs for offshore processing in accordance with the normal budget process.