

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(AE14/255) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Incident on 17 February: With regard to the Ministers initial assurances that the most serious violence occurred outside the facility, who initially provided this information to the Ministers office?

Was this a personal statement of assurance from the Minister?

Where or who did this information come from?

Did this information come from department personnel stationed on Manus Island?

If not, did this information come from the department's main contact on Manus Island?

Did the Ministers office confirm this information with Manus Island managers and/or staff?

If so, what are the details of this reporting?

If not, why not?

Who does the Ministers office communicate with in the facility?

Who is it?

What information was sought from this person?

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

Was information sourced from this person regarding the violence?

If so, what were the details of that information?

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

Did the Ministers office confirm this information with any of the asylum seekers in the facility?

If so, what did this information entail?

If not, why not?

How was all this information relayed to the Minister?

What are the codes of conduct for G4S staff and managers?

How are G4S staff and managers instructed to deal with the outbreak of violence in the facility?

Were there any caveats about the nature of the information when it was provided to the Minister?

If so, why did the Minister make the assertion that the violence occurred outside of the facility?

If not, why were no caveats provided?

*Answer:*

Situation reports for all significant incidents are prepared and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, including the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, relevant

staff in the Minister's office and relevant senior officers in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

The Minister and advisors make contact with relevant senior officers in the event of further enquires. The Minister and senior departmental officers regularly engage with counterparts in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) government.

The code of conduct provided by the department to G4S outlined expectations and guidelines regarding the conduct of G4S staff. The contract requires G4S to ensure that all personnel are aware of, and comply with, the code of conduct at all times.

G4S was required to provide appropriately trained and skilled staff to manage incidents at Offshore Processing Centres, including a dedicated incident response team informed by incident management guidelines.

As both the PNG and Australian Governments have commissioned reviews into these events, the department is not able to comment further until these reviews are finalised.