

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-47)

Senator Conroy (L&CA76-77) asked:

Senator CONROY: Is there ever any radio-telephone communication between the captains on the ships, or whoever is commanding on deck—I am assuming it is the captain for these purposes—and the central office before a point is reached?

Mr Pezzullo: There is constant and persistent radio and satellite communication.

Senator CONROY: Are they all recorded? I mean 'recorded' as in logged and also 'recorded' as in an electronic version recording.

Mr Pezzullo: I will take that on notice because I probably need to answer in two parts. One is what happens with voice communications—long-distance radio or satellite communications, where there is oral communication versus messages that are sent over the wide area network. They certainly are captured because they are electronic communication. So I think the best way to handle your question is to take it on notice.

Answer:

1. Voice recording and logging capabilities are available within Headquarters Border Protection Command in Canberra and used by the Australian Maritime Security Operations Centre when communicating orally with force-assigned assets. Standard practice for all voice calls is to create handwritten file notes which are placed on a physical file detailing the general nature of the communication.
2. Written electronic communications such as emails, operational reports and signals are captured electronically and filed appropriately.