

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/520) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

What FOI training have the staff involved in reviewing these FOI cases/referrals?

Answer:

Each Joint Agency Task Force agency is responsible for coordinating and managing training for its staff.

The type of training undertaken varies between agencies and depends on staff member's role in the FOI process and includes:

- In-house training on FOI Law;
- External legal training on FOI Law, including sessions delivered by the Australian Government Solicitor;
- Attendance and participation in the Information Contact Officer Network facilitated by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner;
- Personal preliminary briefings to decision makers prior to undertaking their decision-making responsibilities;
- Decision makers may receive ongoing advice and assistance on legal process and other issues throughout the entire decision making process;
- Provision of relevant materials, including the FOI Act 1982, Department/Agency Guidelines and Administrative Circulars and general information prepared by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

No additional training is given to staff involved in Operation Sovereign Borders related FOI requests.