

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0327) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

If the Department has been advised of any incidents of physical abuse or threats made against SERCO staff and/or their contractors within the detention network by detainees or other persons in each of the past 4 years:

- a. On what date was the department made aware of these incidents?
- b. In which centres did these incidents occur?
- c. Have any charges being laid in respect of these incidents and if so what is the current status of these charges?

Answer:

- a. The Department was notified on the same day that each alleged incident occurred.
- b. Incidents of aggressive behaviour toward Serco staff occurred in all facilities across the Immigration Detention Network.
- c. DIAC systems do not directly record whether DIAC or Serco notifications to Police in relation to possible criminal behaviour resulted in charges being laid. The status of any action taken by Police in relation to notifications about possible criminal behaviour is a matter for Police. Where a client is convicted of a criminal offence, this is notified to DIAC and considered as part of the Character assessment in the visa assessment process; the conviction records are accessed using Police and court records.