

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0336) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What has happened to those people who were found with weapons from the reportable incidents that occurred in each of the SERCO managed detention facilities in the year to date?

Answer:

Action can be taken against clients who exhibit illegal or antisocial behaviour, such as the possession of weapons or drugs. The detention service provider may develop individual behavioural agreements which allow for the implementation of interventionist or restrictive measures. The Government has legislation in place which introduces a range of measures to create stronger disincentives for unacceptable behaviour within immigration detention facilities. These include provision for a person to fail the character test if convicted of an offence while in immigration detention, which will, in turn, affect a client's visa outcome.

Management of the persons who possessed the weapons has been dealt with on a case by case basis. Police may choose to charge clients if they consider it appropriate, however, none of the occurrences of weapon possession in 2010/11 were considered serious enough for charges to be laid. On other occasions Serco counsels clients regarding appropriate behaviour while in detention. Behavioural management outcomes are generally not reported in the detention services system.