

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 23 - 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0343) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

**Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

Is there a mandated staff ratio for detention centres and other facilities where asylum seekers are detained? Is that ratio currently being met?

*Answer:*

No, there is not a mandated staff ratio for immigration detention centres and other facilities. As per clause 3.2 of the Immigration Detention Centre Contract (the Contract), the Department relies on the skill and expertise of the Service Provider. As such, Serco must ensure that the personnel levels at facilities are adequate to deliver the services in accordance with the Contract.