

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0608/0609/0610) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

- 1) What is the average length of detention anticipated for IMAs used to frame the budget estimates for programme 4.3 in 2010-11?
- 2) How does this compare with 2009-10?
- 3) How is it used to frame the budget estimate in 2011-12?

Answer:

- 1) The average length of detention for Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) was not a specific driver in the costing model used to derive the 2010-11 budget estimate for the management and care of IMAs. The key cost driver is the estimate of the average occupancy throughout the year of IMAs in detention facilities. The number of visa grants, the number of appeals against decisions and the number of removals anticipated are important factors that are taken into account when deriving the estimate of the average occupancy.
- 2) The average length of detention for IMAs was not a specific driver in the costing model used to derive the 2009-10, 2010-11, or 2011-12 budget estimates for the management and care of IMAs.
- 3) The Department did not use an average length of time in detention to derive the budget estimate for 2011-12 as the key cost driver remains the estimate of the average occupancy throughout the year of IMAs in detention facilities.