

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0465) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Has the department or the minister met with or had discussions with Malaysian officials since the release of the Houston Report? Has there been any correspondence or any contact at all? At what level? Have there been any side meetings at international conferences with Malaysian officials to progress the previously failed five for one swap been resurrected. If so when, if not, why not?

*Answer:*

Yes. The former Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP and senior departmental officers have had contact with Malaysia on the Arrangement and the recommendations of the Expert Panel. Contact will continue including through joint working groups on people smuggling and immigration related issues.