

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(10) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett (L&CA 25) asked:

- (1) Provide the reasons to suggest that IMA staffing would be less than the 458 plus the 300.
- (2) What is the estimation of the number of IMA staff if it is not 758?
- (3) What are the figures for 30 June 2011?
- (4) What is the budget for staff allocation for IMAs for 30 June 2011?

Answer:

(1) The 458 FTE figure is the average FTE for September 2010 for staff held against the IMA cost centre codes under Outcome 4.3 – Offshore Asylum Seeker Management. It includes staff on deployment, rotation and in corporate support, and includes both internal staff and external recruits.

The 300 figure represents an estimate of how many external recruits from the secondment and bulk recruitment round would be required to provide a sustainable workforce for IMA operations. Noting the unpredictable nature of IMA rates this is an estimate only. It is not therefore sound to add these figures to extrapolate a total staffing figure.

(2) By the end of December 2010 the forecast demand is 524.

(3) The Department's best estimate of projected staffing numbers required to service IMAs at 30 June 2011 is 879 on deployment or rotation. This will be further updated in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2011-12.

(4) The current funding under outcome 4.3 for the management of irregular maritime arrivals includes \$27.7 million for staff salaries and \$8.6 million for staff allowances. The Department is currently working with the Department of Finance and Deregulation on a revised estimate for 2010-11 and this number will be published in the Department's 2010-11 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements.