

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 27

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator HUMPHRIES: Can I ask about AFP operations on Christmas Island at the moment. Can you tell me how many staff are currently on Christmas Island?

Mr Drennan: There are 46 currently on Christmas Island.

Senator HUMPHRIES: How many of them are from the International Deployment Group, and how many of them are permanently stationed Christmas Island community police officers?

Mr Drennan: There would be three categories of people on the island. Of those who are currently there, there are 10 who we call members of the Christmas Island police; they are either AFP or special members of the AFP who are positioned there. As far as the actual numbers for the other two categories go—some of them are there for public order, and the third category are those that are there in regard to people-smuggling investigations—there are 21 of the public order people.

Senator HUMPHRIES: The public order people being the ones looking after the detention facilities?

Mr Drennan: They do not actually look after the detention facilities, but if there were to be some violent activity there then, yes, they would step in to support Serco and have the day-to-day running of those facilities under DIAC.

Senator HUMPHRIES: That is what I meant to say.

Mr Drennan: That is just to be clear for the record. That would leave 15 in regard to people smuggling.

Senator HUMPHRIES: All right. Could you take it on notice to tell us—perhaps on a month-by-month basis over the last 12 months—how many AFP officers have been on the island and how they break up between those three categories, please.

Mr Negus: We did provide that at the last estimates, I think. Certainly we can do it from that period to now.

Senator HUMPHRIES: If you could, yes—just from the last set of figures till now, please. That would be good.

The answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The below table details the monthly AFP deployments to Christmas Island for the period 12 March 2011 to 1 October 2011.

Date	Public Order Management	Christmas Island Police	People Smuggling	Other (E.g. Support Staff, Command, Negotiators & Specialist Staff)	TOTAL
13 March 2011	68	8	3	7	86
1 April 2011	143	6	3	9	161
1 May 2011	36	10	12	12	70
1 June 2011	52	9	10	8	79
1 July 2011	39	9	12	7	67
1 August 2011	38	10	13	11	72
1 September 2011	36	8	9	12	65
1 October 2011	22	7	10	4	43