

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRYWRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-384

Subject: Domestic Immigration Detention Network -People entered

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

And to further illustrate the changes since COVID-19, for each of the following months, how many people have entered Australia's domestic immigration detention network for the purposes of deportation via a Section 116(1)(e) visa cancellation. For each month, please provide a breakdown as to whether the detainee was transferred directly from prison, from the community, or elsewhere (please provide whatever categories available).

- • Jan 2019
- • Feb 2019
- • Mar 2019
- • Apr 2019
- • May 2019
- • Jun 2019
- • Jul 2019
- • Aug 2019
- • Sep 2019
- • Oct 2019
- • Nov 2019
- • Dec 2019
- • Jan 2020
- • Feb 2020
- • Mar 2020
- • Apr 2020
- • May 2020
- • Jun 2020

Answer:

Number of Section 116(1)(e) visa cancellations detained in Australia's immigration detention network by month

S116(1)(e) Detained by month	Total
January 2019	12
February 2019	7
March 2019	17
April 2019	9
May 2019	12
June 2019	12
July 2019	12
August 2019	11
September 2019	8
October 2020	22
November 2020	15
December 2020	10
January 2020	12
February 2020	11
March 2020	6
April 2020	4
May 2020	11
June 2020	11
July 2020	7
August 2020	15

The data relating to whether a detainee was transferred directly from prison, from the community, or elsewhere has not been provided. This data cannot be obtained through automated data extraction and would require extensive time and resources to manually extract.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-385

Subject: Domestic Immigration Detention Network - change to population

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Please illustrate how the population mix of the domestic immigration detention network has changed, for each of the following months, indicate how many people have entered Australia's domestic immigration detention network for the purposes of deportation via a Section 501 visa cancellation. For each month, please provide a breakdown as to whether the detainee was transferred directly from prison, from the community, or elsewhere (please provide whatever categories available).

- Jan 2019
- Feb 2019
- Mar 2019
- Apr 2019
- May 2019
- Jun 2019
- Jul 2019
- Aug 2019
- Sep 2019
- Oct 2019
- Nov 2019
- Dec 2019
- Jan 2020
- Feb 2020
- Mar 2020
- Apr 2020
- May 2020
- Jun 2020
- Jul 2020
- Aug 2020

Answer:

Number of Section 501 visa cancellations detained in Australia's immigration detention network by month

S501 Detained by month	Total
January 2019	74
February 2019	43
March 2019	68
April 2019	54
May 2019	59
June 2019	62
July 2019	55
August 2019	67
September 2019	70
October 2020	58
November 2020	70
December 2020	64
January 2020	68
February 2020	58
March 2020	57
April 2020	50
May 2020	52
June 2020	62
July 2020	58
August 2020	65

The data relating to whether a detainee was transferred directly from prison, from the community, or elsewhere has not been provided. This data cannot be obtained through automated data extraction and would require extensive time and resources to manually extract.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-386

Subject: Immigration Detention Network

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How has the population mix of Australia's domestic immigration detention network changed since the advent of COVID-19?

Answer:

Population in held detention since January 2020

Detention Group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Air Arrival - Non Immi Cleared	43	46	28	24	22	21	20	18	13
Illegal Maritime Arrival	506	520	512	510	505	505	508	503	514
Overstayer	141	141	110	117	130	149	161	159	146
s501 Visa Cancellation	629	618	623	652	675	703	722	711	715
Seaport Arrival	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Other Visa Cancellation	110	112	98	112	124	143	145	152	144
Total	1,432	1,440	1,373	1,417	1,458	1,523	1,558	1,545	1,534

**On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 as a pandemic.*

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-388

Subject: ADF assets deployed to Northern Queensland

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Have any ADF assets been deployed into Northern Queensland as part of the ABF's maritime surveillance obligations?

a. If yes, please specify what assets have been deployed? And how many days was each asset deployed for?

Answer:

Yes.

During 2019/20 FY additional aerial, maritime and land assets have been deployed in maritime surveillance comprising Cape Class vessels, Armidale Class Patrol boats, P-8 Poseidon Maritime Patrol aircraft, Survey vessels and Motor Launches, and Regional Force Surveillance Group.

To ensure operational integrity and noting security classification, the Australian Border Force will not comment on the number or tasking of assets other than to say there are significant resources deployed in the Australian Maritime Domain.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-389

Subject: Steps taken to improve maritime surveillance in Northern Queensland

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, what steps has the Department / ABF taken to improve maritime surveillance in Northern Queensland – particularly with a view of people movement to remote parts of the state?

- a. Have ABF assets been increased to assist in Northern Queensland maritime surveillance?
 - i. If yes, please specify what assets have been deployed? And how many days was each asset deployed for?

Answer:

The ABF has increased the number and frequency of maritime surveillance activities.

- a. Yes
 - i. To ensure operational effectiveness, the ABF will not comment on the deployment period of capabilities. However, the ABF has deployed and changed capabilities in Northern Queensland to assist with maritime surveillance since the outbreak of COVID-19.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-390

Subject: Australian Defence Force contribution to maritime surveillance

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How has the Australian Defence Force contribution to Australian Border Force's maritime surveillance changed over the period 2015-16 to 2019-20 inclusive?

a. Please provide a quantitative measure so that we can understand how ADF assets have been used. For example, please provide for each financial year measures such as:

- i. The actual flying hours for each financial year
- ii. The actual square nautical miles covered for each financial year
- iii. The number of days that ADF assets were used because ABF assets were unavailable.

b. Did the ADF's involvement change during COVID-19? If yes, how?

Answer:

Since February 2020, the ADF has enhanced its presence across the Torres Strait, with additional air surveillance. This included:

- One Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Battery of 47 ADF members, flying RQ-7B Unmanned Aerial Systems.
- One Airspace Control Team of four ADF personnel, from No 44 Wing RAAF (in support of a).

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-391

Subject: Assessment of fleet operated by Cobham

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What is the Department's assessment of the aerial surveillance fleet currently operated by Cobham?

- a. If the fleet fit-for-purpose?
 - i. Has the Department's assessment changed at all due to change in security risks associated with COVID-19?
- b. Does the fleet meet deliver on Minister Dutton's assurances that Australia would have, "the best technology available to keep our waters safe"?
- c. Does the fleet adequately address the increased complex maritime security threats to Australia that the Minister noted in October 2018, which have evolved since the contract was originally awarded in 2006?

Answer:

- a. Yes
 - i. No.
- b. Yes.
- c. Yes.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-392

Subject: Air Surveillance - Annual costs

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

If Australia's current air surveillance arrangements are extended, does the Department/ABF expect the annual costs to increase, decrease, or remain the same as the current contract, which was first signed in 2006?

Answer:

Given 14 years have passed since the air surveillance services were put to tender in 2006, the Australian Border Force would expect a potential increase in costs under any new arrangement.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-393

Subject: Air Surveillance - Extension of contract

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How has the Department calculated the time period the contract will be extended for?

a. If no:

i. What is the Government's plan for Northern Australia surveillance at the conclusion of the 2021 contract?

Answer:

Please refer to CV19-395.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-394

Subject: Potential providers for air surveillance arrangements

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Has the Department/ABF commenced any approaches to market with any potential providers for air surveillance arrangements for beyond the original 2021 end-date?

a. If yes,

i. How many potential providers have been approached?

ii. Which of the following stages have commenced – and for how many potential providers:

1. request for tender
2. request for quote
3. request for expression of interest
4. request for information
5. request for proposal.
6. How long is the proposed extension for?

Answer:

No. The Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force are considering its options.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-395

Subject: Air Surveillance Contract - Cobham Aviation

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Australian Border Force's air surveillance contract with Cobham Aviation is due to expire in 2021.

a. Has a decision already been taken to extend Cobham Aviation's contractual arrangements for maritime surveillance?

i. If yes:

1. Who in the Department/ABF made this decision?
2. When was this decision made?
3. Was this decision influenced by COVID-19? If so, how?
4. Please indicate what role the Minister or the Minister's office played in this decision being made? Please include dates the Minister was briefed and/or made a decision/responded to the brief.
5. How long is this extension for?
6. How has the Department calculated the time period the contract will be extended for?

ii. If no:

1. What is the Government's plan for Northern Australia surveillance at the conclusion of the 2021 contract?
2. Will COVID-19 change the Government's original plans?

Answer:

No.

ii 1. – The Australian Border Force (ABF) cannot comment on whole-of-government plans.

ii 2. – The ABF cannot comment on whole-of-government plans.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-396

Subject: Changes to operational temp as a result of COVID-19

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How as the operational temp changed as a result of COVID-19. To assist, please provide:

- a. The projected flying hours for 2018-19
- b. The projected square nautical miles to be covered for 2018-19
- c. The actual flying hours for 2018-19
- d. The actual square nautical miles covered for 2018-19
- e. The projected flying hours for 2019-20
- f. The projected square nautical miles to be covered for 2019-20
- g. The actual flying hours for 2019-20
- h. The actual square nautical miles covered for 2019-20
- i. The projected number of days that air surveillance assets were operational for 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21
- j. The actual number of days that air surveillance assets were operational for 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21

Answer:

The operational tempo for aerial surveillance assets has not changed as a result of COVID-19.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-397

Subject: Contract costs exceeded

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

In the response to Question on Notice No. 1163 & 1164, the Department advised in answer to question 7 that the Australian Border Force's costs for 2018-19 exceeded the contract by \$9,492,647 due to increased operational tempo and the indexation of contract rates.

- a. Does the Department expect to exceed the contract costs again in 2019-20?
 - i. If yes, please provide a breakdown to indicate how much of this was in relation to indexation of contract rates, compared to increased operational tempo?
- b. Was any of this increase associated with changes in operational requirements due to COVID-19?
- c. To assist with comparison, please provide a breakdown to indicate how much of this \$9,492,647 was in relation to indexation of contract rates, compared to increased operational tempo

Answer:

- a. 2019/20 actuals are now final.
 - i. The cash payments in 2019/20 exceeded the estimated contract value by \$2,432,964. While indexation accounted for a component of this uplift, it is difficult to specifically calculate due to the multiple indices applied to the contract and the variable nature of the contract.
- b. No.
- c. Analysis of the breakdown for 2018/19 indicates that the majority of the variance relates to invoices carried over from the previous year. The 2018/19 costs previously tabled represent cash payments made in the 2018/19 financial year, which incorporated 13 months of operational invoices. While indexation also accounted for a component of this uplift, it is difficult to specifically calculate due to the multiple indices applied over the life of the contract and the variable nature of the contract.

The Department reviews and updates the contract as necessary, with the total annual value as previously reported being an estimated usage of the contractual components in each year, The Department has not overspent the total estimated contract value.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-399

Subject: Air Surveillance of our Borders

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How has the management of the air surveillance of our borders changed since the advent of COVID-19?

- a. Has the Department diverted any resources from air surveillance to other tasks during COVID-19?
- b. To help illustrate how air surveillance has changed, please provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020?
 - i. Number of square nautical miles of air coverage have been completed.
 1. Please provide a breakdown by asset class.
 - ii. Number of hours of air coverage have been completed.
 1. Please provide a breakdown by asset class.
 - iii. Number of days were air surveillance assets operational?
 1. Did this meet the Department's objectives? If not, why not, please specify the reason.
 - iv. Number of days were air surveillance assets non-operational?
 1. Please provide a breakdown by asset class
- c. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data.

Answer:

Refer to CV19-396.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-400

Subject: Changes to ABF Marine Unit

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How has the management of the ABF Marine Unit changed since the advent of COVID-19?

- a. Has the Department diverted any resources from the core functions of the Marine Unit (to) other tasks during COVID-19?
- b. To help illustrate how the work of the Marine Unit has changed, please provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:
 - i. Number of patrol days (total fleet) have been completed? (Please provide a breakdown by vessel type.)
 - ii. Number of vessels that were in port for more than seven days.
 1. Provide the name of each vessel the reason for it being in port, and the total number of days in port?
 2. If maintenance was required, please provide a brief description of the maintenance required and whether this is routine or out of cycle.
- c. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data.

Answer:

No resources were diverted from the core functions of the Marine Unit to other tasks due to COVID-19.