

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 21 June 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(FOCS/034) – Inquiry into Flag of Convenience Shipping - Costs for border security per container -

Asked:

CHAIR: OTS—all right. That is fairer enough. While I am at it, I will ask this question. It may go to OTS. Would your department be able to tell us how much the breakdown is per container? You may not have that information.

Mr Murray: In terms of our—

CHAIR: National security. Perhaps you could break it down per container—'We know how many TCU's come into this nation every year and how many go out.'

Mr Murray: There is some data available. We break it down into 24 equivalent units—how many we set to examine each year. But it is not through the one vector or one threat around national security; it is all-encompassing. It is around border control products.

CHAIR: So that is aviation and maritime, is that what you are saying?

Mr Murray: Yes.

CHAIR: So you do not have a breakdown as per—

Mr Murray: In terms of cost?

CHAIR: We need to spend the money to make sure Australia is safe; I have no argument with that. I am just very interested to know, if we do have the figure, how much per container—

Mr Murray: For the border security from the perspective of—

CHAIR: Yes, for the border security.

Mr Murray: Yes, border security. But in the lens of counterterrorism, or around border control goods?

CHAIR: Border control and counterterrorism. I want to talk about counterterrorist security, yes.

Mr Murray: We may be in a position to answer now, or to take it on notice—

Mr Williams: We may direct you to the annual report actually, because the cost of our measures at the border in order to scrutinise cargo are one of the KPIs that we report on in the annual report. So we can perhaps point the secretariat to that.

CHAIR: That would be great. We have looked at aviation security—not in this committee but another one; and I am allowed to talk about that inquiry because it has finished. And we see, behind the scenes, that the work that is now being done is brilliant. People are starting to move through the airport a little bit more quickly than they were—I am from Perth; we just wander in and out, but Sydney is mad, I know, and I get that.

Mr Murray: I am a Sandgroper as well, Senator.

CHAIR: I knew there was something about you that I liked! If you can take that on notice for us.

Mr Murray: We will.

Answer:

The Department's KPI to inspect 101,500 twenty foot equivalent unit (TEU) cargo containers per annum (as referenced in the DIBP 2015/16 Annual Report at page 28) is at a cost, on average, of \$315 per unit.