

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/007) - China Trip Investigation - Programme 3.2 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Departmental)

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 14) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How long should an investigation like this normally take?

Ms Dorrington: Depending upon the complexity of the documents that need to be examined, reconciled and so on, it might take some three or four weeks.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And this was a trip that happened in June last year?

Ms Dorrington: Yes.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How long has the investigation been going currently?

Ms Dorrington: I will check the date for you during the morning tea break or in a break, if that is possible, and come back to you on the date of the start of the investigation, but it was within recent weeks.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: When you check the time of when the investigation started, could you also get back to me about what documents you have in terms of checking the expenses for the trip?

Ms Dorrington: Yes

Answer:

Following referral of a specific allegation of misconduct to the Integrity, Security and Assurance Division on 27 January 2015, the investigation commenced on 28 January 2015 and, at the time of the Estimates hearing, had been going for three weeks.

The documents being examined in terms of checking the expenses are:

- Invoices from Decmil
- Itinerary and costs from ARK China
- Itinerary and costs from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- Airfare information
- Trip approval minute

In addition, ARK China has indicated that it will provide receipts for alcohol consumption if requested. This will be determined in the course of the investigation.