

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/024) - Human Rights Commission Report - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 49) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: There is video footage referred to. I take it that the department does not dispute the accuracy of the statements made on page 161 of this report?

Mr Pezzullo: I am not sure that I can answer that without checking, because the department, at least in two instances signed by the former secretary and myself on two occasions—we provided what I would consider to be quite significant responses, in some cases rebuttal material. Whether those responses, those factual clarifications and/or indeed in some cases rebuttals, cover the incident that occurred on 23 March 2014—I am happy to take on, if you like, short notice, with the chair's agreement, that is to say, I am happy to look at it through the course of the afternoon and come back to you in these proceedings.

Answer:

The department does not dispute the matters referred to on page 161 of the Australian Human Right Commission report.

The department can confirm that Serco discussed the relocation with detainees, including a number of unaccompanied minors and their appointed guardian at 1000 hours local time, and continued these discussions during the course of the morning but were unable to reach agreement with a group of 35 unaccompanied minors.

At approximately 1400 hours local time the detention service provider's senior manager sought approval from the Christmas Island Regional Manager to use force to relocate the detainees and approval was given at approximately 1500 hours local time