

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/074) - Human Rights Commission Report - Programme 3.1 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Administered)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 115) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Sure. I am asking another question: do you dispute the statement that the Human Rights Commission has made on page 161 regarding the cyclone and the use of force?

Mr Douglas: I do not know that I would be in a position to either confirm or dispute it without taking further advice.

Senator KIM CARR: So you would like to take that on notice, would you?

Mr Douglas: I will.

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