

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/370) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

In your answer to QON 356, where I asked about any concerns about safety that may have been raised by captains of vessels involved in Operation Sovereign Borders, this question wasn't answered.

Have any captains of vessels involved in Operation Sovereign Borders raised concerns, formally or informally, about the safety of their crew in relation to the activities that they are being asked to carry out?

You also note in your answer that there are no unmitigated safety issues relating to OSB. Can you please provide the committee with a table that identifies the type of mitigation strategy (elimination, substitution, engineering controls, PDE, etc) that is being used for each type of identified safety issue, even if the safety issues themselves cannot be identified?

Answer:

The safety of all personnel involved in Operation Sovereign Borders is paramount.

A detailed risk assessment is performed for every operation conducted at sea, inclusive of threats, risk profiles and mitigation strategies. These reflect specific operational detail of on-water activities similar in nature to material which is subject to the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection's earlier claims of public interest immunity.