

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/013) - Manus Good Friday Incident - M16 assault rifle - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 52) asked:

Senator McKIM: I think you have. I will ask you then, Mr Pezzullo, was an M16 assault rifle fired into the centre during the Good Friday attacks?

Mr Pezzullo: I do not have the notification in front of me. I think the notification certainly would have made reference to the use of firearms. That is certainly publicly known in any event. I am not sure that it constitutes the sort of forensic action report that would detail X number of persons accessed X number of firearms and fired Y number of shots. That is why I, perhaps too cryptically, said in my first answer to you that we conferred with Comcare on the basis of: is this a notifiable incident within the strict requirement of the Commonwealth legislation that relates to our statutory duty of care in relation to the undertaking that we are performing on the island, which is the provision of services? I am not sure that you would characterise that as an investigative process. It was establishing whether we have got a notifiable incident to hand—point 1. Point 2, as to what is contained in the notification, I will ask Ms Connell or one of her officers to speak to that.

Senator McKIM: Thank you.

Mr Pezzullo: But I would want to refresh my memory as to whether we have given any undertakings to provide it to the committee.

*Answer:*

The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) are conducting concurrent investigations into the incident.

It is inappropriate for the Department to comment further during an ongoing investigation.