

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/080) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Second data breach (reported Friday 16/10/14)

- a. When did this second breach occur?
- b. What are the circumstances surrounding the breach?
- c. How many asylum seekers/detainees are affected by this breach?
- d. What is the Department doing to ensure their safety and wellbeing?
- e. Have they been advised?
- f. What is the Government doing to ensure security is improved on Nauru in light of this breach?
- g. What is the Department doing to recover the hard drives and the information contained on them?
- h. Will there be an independent investigation?
- i. If yes – when and by whom will it be conducted? Will it be made public?
- ii. If no – why not?

Answer:

- a. Between April and June 2014. An incident report regarding the loss of these hard drives was provided to the department on 4 September 2014.
- b. The hard drives were reported as being missing from their expected locations in shared work areas.
- c. The exact number of transferees affected cannot be precisely determined at this time on the basis of information currently available.
- d. The department provided formal messaging to transferees about the breach including the actions being taken by contracted service providers to identify how the breach occurred, the actions being taken to improve information security at the Nauru Offshore Processing Centre and how the matter may be referred to in their refugee status determination. The department has also referred the matter to the review being undertaken by Mr Philip Moss.
- e. Refer to d.
- f. The department continues to work with its service providers to ensure there is strengthened IT security through the development of a secure repository for personal and sensitive client data, the migration of data into this platform and the sanitisation and removal of personal electronic devices, utilisation of encrypted flash drives, the development of appropriate staff awareness and training, and the development of a robust Digital Information Policy.

- g. The matter has been referred to the Australian Federal Police and the review being undertaken by Mr Philip Moss.
- h. Yes.
- i. Mr Philip Moss has been appointed to conduct the review and the final report is expected to be provided to the department's Secretary at the end of January 2015.