

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Sub Program 1.2.2**

**Question No. 17**

**Senator Feeney asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:**

Regarding the change in Customs regulations to imported goods, what were the penalties previously? How significant has the increase in penalties been, in monetary and imprisonment terms?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Previously there was no penalty of imprisonment for the import or export of objectionable goods (unless they consisted of child pornography or child abuse material). The previous maximum penalty was a fine of up to 1000 penalty units (\$110,000) or three times the value of the goods, whichever was the greater.

The amendments introduced an additional penalty of up to five years imprisonment for the import or export of a commercial quantity of objectionable goods and for the import of objectionable goods for a commercial purpose. These purposes include selling, exhibiting or displaying an objectionable good in public.