

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(185) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 113) asked:

In relation to Internet use in Detention Centres, provide to us the instances where withdrawal of facilities has occurred and the time period of the ban?

Answer:

In regard to the actual short term withdrawal of internet privileges, individuals may have their access halted for a short period of time if their behaviour around the computers is deemed to be not fair and reasonable or not conducive to equitable use of computing resources. Such behaviour could mean consistently not allowing the next allocated client to use the computer, damaging equipment or, even more seriously, causing physical arguments or disruptions over the computer use.

These incidents are managed by staff on a day to day basis and while a record might be written into a client's file, should such an incident occur, the Department does not keep records of how many people have had internet privileges removed for a short period of time.