

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE12/0409) Program: Internal Product**

Senator Cash asked:

In an article about Sandi Logan in “The Power Index’ an internet media site, it is stated: “As the number of detainees grows, so too does the media's interest in the issue. This means (Sandi) Logan must, at times, go above and beyond his duties. He worked for 20 hours straight when riots broke out on Christmas Island last March. At 2am he even took command of the facility for four hours so the centre's managers could rest.” <http://www.thepowerindex.com.au/spinners/sandi-logan>; is this true? If so, how does the Department defend the handing over of running a centre in the middle of a riot to a communications manager? Doesn't this constitute a significant breach of security? Who made the decision to appoint Mr Logan to this role? If not true, why hasn't Mr Logan contacted the website, with whom he obviously provided an interview and comments, and had the article removed?

*Answer:*

No, it is not true Mr Logan “took command of the (Christmas Island) facility for four hours so the centre's managers could rest”. This claim was originally mis-reported in *The Australian* (January 4, 2012), and subsequently repeated in the aforementioned online report (on February 7, 2012). During the March 2011 disturbances on Christmas Island, Mr Logan, as a member of the department's senior executive service (SES), was present to liaise with the media reporting at the scene (North West Point IDC). He was never in “command of the facility...so the centre's managers could rest”.

Mr Logan took appropriate action to bring this reporting error to the attention of the relevant journalists at the time of publication.