

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE14/355) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

Please provide a list of de-identified personnel, by rank, involved in Operation Sovereign Borders or the Joint Agency Taskforce consulted prior to the Chief of the Defence Force made a declaration under the Work Health and Safety Act, removing safety duties from Australian personnel working as part of Operation Sovereign Borders?

- a. Was any formal request to engage in consultation sent to anyone involved in Operation Sovereign Borders?
- b. On what date was that formal request received?

When were personnel involved in Operation Sovereign Borders or the Joint Agency Taskforce first contacted about this declaration?

- a. Were any meetings held?
- b. On what dates were those meetings held?

Was feedback provided to the Chief of the Defence Force about his decision to make the declaration?

- a. On what date was this feedback provided?

*Answer:*

A wide range of staff were involved in the development of the declaration, from SES Band 3 and equivalent to APS6 and equivalent.

While no formal request was received; Operation Sovereign Borders Joint Agency Taskforce (OSB JATF) staff were involved in consultation from the inception of the JATF, with some staff members being involved from an earlier date as part of their pre-JATF duties.

Meetings involved OSB JATF staff were held on:

- 29 October 2013;
- 22 November 2013; and
- 27 November 2013.

The declaration was also discussed at periodic meetings of senior Commonwealth department legal officials on several occasions.

OSB JATF did not provide feedback directly to the Chief of the Defence Force, but feedback was provided to the Department of Defence and members of the Australian Defence Force during consultation.